

ENGLISH COURSE 2

BACK TO BASICS

An Educational Revolution

Aart Bark

English Course

100 Short Stories

**May be used in its
own right or to be
translated into any
other language.**

This story contains the 140 most common words.

1.PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

1. Mr and Mrs Layman have a son Bill, a boy of six.
2. If there is no school, he likes to play with his ball.
3. Then it is at his feet all day long.
4. He will run up and down from the well to the shed at the back of his home in Camperdown.
5. You must go and see him. If you do, you will be glad you did.
6. Tell your father and your mother; they may like to see him as much as you do.
7. You can get there by car or by ship, but I beg you, "Ring them first, just in case."
8. They will say, "Yes or no," so that's not too bad.
9. I went myself on a Monday. We were rather poor at the time.
10. We had no car, so father said, "Let us send him by airmail. We will put him in a box. We will fill it up with some milky bars because that will make him sit still."
11. So they did! They ran outside when they saw the big jumbo jet fly over.
12. It took a day to get there.
13. When I got out of the box, I looked like an aborigine because it was hot, so the chocolate had melted.
14. "Good day Pete!" I called "Where are you? Come and see how sunburnt I am!"
15. He didn't hear me, so I turned left and went into his bedroom where he was reading. He has got such a lot of books on this and that.
16. The next day, I met his little sister dressed in blue and a red hat.
17. Pete said that she liked to sit under the big oak tree to sing her favourite song, softly yet clearly.
18. After lunch, Pete kicked his ball and sent it far into the strong wind.
19. He must have been in good form for the ball went higher than ever before.
20. Unfortunately, it landed in the tree.
21. Fortunately, some men helped to cut it or else the ball would have fallen onto the baby girl's head.
22. She would have been dead for sure!

2.THIS MORNING

1. The sun comes up; moon and stars have gone.
2. A jumbo jet with winking wings sends people far away.
3. My black dog has fun running after a tennis ball when I throw it away.
4. The cat with a bell around her neck likes to sit on the red rug while eating her cat food.
5. The only duck we have swims around in our pond.
6. An old van with boxes and drums just went down the hill. It must be on its way to the big ship with a Dutch flag we saw yesterday in the harbour.
7. My sister wants to draw me while I have a cup of tea and two slices of bread; one with jam and one with peanut butter. She often likes to do that.
8. I'll take some sunflower seeds to school for my play lunch.
9. That must be the school bus, so I had better catch it.

Note: "A picture speaks a thousand words". Consequently, when we want to learn a new language, lessons should be **visualised!** It means that the plot of each little story should be seen in the mind's eye so to speak. That's why each set of new words has been used in an easy-to-remember context. Students can memorise a whole story by writing down the key-words of each sentence or paragraph.

Example for lesson 1: First visualise the scene of action:

A typical morning with people and pets busy with what they usually do. Then pay attention to what else is happening.

Key-words: sun, moon, stars. jet. dog, fun, run, ball. cat, bell, rug....

These Memory Training exercises are most important, especially at a time where modern technology is used to look things up instead of committing them to memory!

Snippets of stories should come to mind during other routine activities. It is also an excellent way to fall asleep!

3. ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL

1. A six-year-old boy, dressed in his school uniform, saw a bird's nest with six little birds in it. They were still asleep.
2. He thought that the mother bird and the father bird had left them to look after themselves.
3. When he took them out of the nest, they woke up, chirped and picked at his arm.
4. When he wanted to put them into his schoolbag between his books, they jumped out and hopped around.
5. He ran home as fast as his legs would allow it to get help.
6. When he saw his little sister, he said, "I'm glad to see you!" and gave her a hug.
7. She said, "Why are you in such a hurry!"
8. He told her the sad story and said, "We can put them into your little pram; you know, the gift from Santa."
9. She said, "Yes, and then into my cot; there's plenty of room for all of us."
10. So they did; no good waiting any longer!
11. Little Emily followed him while singing the song she had just learnt.
12. On the way back, a bad storm blew up.
13. Just as well they had the pram with them because they not only rescued a hen stuck under a big branch but also six frisky fish and six frisky frogs that had jumped onto the road.

4. ON THE FARM

1. Farmer Cage did what he always does; looking with satisfaction at his big cow who had just given him yet another bone coloured calf.
2. He wants to make sure that the calf gets enough milk.
3. The cow is standing in the mud under an old tree that has already been half eaten by white ants.
4. Cage was dressed in a green coat with a leather belt around it, and on his head an old felt hat that almost covered his red face.
5. He has just unloaded his coal cart because it is still at a time that people burnt it in their stoves to cook their meals.
6. His dear old grandmother came out in her nighty and called out, “There are grubs on your good boots that cost so much; rinse them off under the tap.”
7. He answered,” I will when I’m ready. The best thing for you to do is to go away from here, it’s too cold! If ever you catch a cold, I’ll have to go the hospital again when it turns into bronchitis like the last time.”
8. She nodded in agreement and said, “I’ll prepare a hot bath for you and I’ll bake a cake as well to celebrate the birth of a healthy calf.

ATTENTION DIRECTORS:

The use of them is unique; they won’t be found in any other textbook. In his “**SPELLAPHONE BOOK**”, the author has grouped about 3000 words into **WORD FAMILIES**, words with the same vowel pattern. In these stories, vowels that need extra attention are printed in red. It’ll improve **spelling awareness**.

5. A SERIOUS ACCIDENT

1. Until five weeks ago, our neighbour who lives on the corner of Day- and King Streets was still a kind, old man full of life.
2. When Mr Hide was knocked down by a huge concrete block that fell off the top of a skyscraper, he would have certainly been killed if he hadn't worn his new fur coat.
3. He lay under it in a very deep hole.
4. Rescuers could hear him cry, but it took four hours before they could find and free him.
5. He had hurt his foot, and one of his ears was missing so they gave him a spare one donated by an unknown donor.
6. His head was egg-shaped so they had to keep it on ice for a month.
7. He will have to stay in bed for at least one or two years before he will have recovered enough to get out and about.
8. So he can catch up on his sleep.
9. He wants to read but his eyesight is almost gone.
10. If anyone decides to come and visit him, they are asked to bring teabags instead of flowers because he drinks a lot.

6. A MYSTERY

1. It was a very hot day; too hot to **learn** anything.
2. The **friendly teacher** by the name of Miss Pink told the class the good news.
3. Since they had already been to Red **Leaf** Park and Buttermilk Creek the week before, it was now time to have a picnic on **Cream Beach**.
4. The students were of course **ready** to begin **wrapping** up some ripe **apples**, a fruit cake and a **loaf** of brown **bread**.
5. They rode **their** pushbikes about 9 km along the open **road**.
6. Many boys made an attempt to **beat** Miss Pink but she was too fast for them.
7. After a **while**, they all ran into a mailbox.
8. For **once**, the **beach** was nice and **clean** again.
9. Miss Pink pulled a collaps**ible** chair from a cave **beneath** an overhanging rock.
10. She sat down and told the students to go for a swim.
11. However, two boys who had been good mates since the day they were born, decided to brave the steep **cliff** **instead** of the surf.
12. They followed the steep, narrow path. The bott**le**brushes on either side swept against **their** faces; it made it hard to stay awake.
13. When they finally **reached** the top, an old lady clutching a clock without hands greeted them.
14. Then the clouds came over, swiftly. When they had gone again, the old lady with the clock and the boys had gone also.
15. Until this day, nobody knows whether they still live or not.

7. ALL IS WELL THAT ENDS WELL

1. Some **years** ago during a stormy night, the big show tent rose into the air and then crashed onto the ground where it lay like the crumpled up sails of a 17th Century sailing ship.
2. The **people** had never seen anything like this before. It had always been safe and sound, so there never was a **reason** to be afraid.
3. When the boss **walked** around it to inspect the mess, he suddenly sang out to his assistant, “Come and have a look!”
4. They found that a mouse with sharp teeth had been gnawing at quite a number of ropes.....
5. Today, that same boss looked very happy.
6. Dressed in dirty shirts, shorts and shoes he was standing in front of an old woolshed that had been turned into stables for the race horses he had **bought** with the insurance pay-out.
7. We were told that he kept going without stopping, always doing what he wanted to do.
8. He **seldom** took time off to wash.
9. He would say, “What’s the use of washing yourself? The next day you’re all dirty again, so it doesn’t solve your problem.”
10. He took a sip of soft drink from his flask and called his racehorse to have lunch.
11. Silk Queen, usually as quick as hurricane-a wind in hurry-strolled down to cross the padd**ock** while having a nibble and making sure she did not skid on the wet grass.

8. A SHORT STORY

1. Today, those small, sweet-looking girls in their blue skirts won't have to say their time-tables or learn a new tune.
2. They will spend a few hours in de country looking at as many things as possible.
3. They are standing on the platform, shouting, waving and flirting with boys from another school.
4. Tonight, doctor Knowall will have to prescribe something to instantly cure their hoarse throats.
5. Mr Bill Black stokes up the steam engine to get the train into motion.
6. One can see and smell a thick cloud of smoke a mile away.
7. They have only just crossed Bottlebrush Creek when Mr Black puts on the brakes.
8. The steam engine lets off steam and so do the girls.
9. The train still skids another forty metres, yet not far enough to hit the car on the track.
10. Bill tries to think why these two men have parked their car in such a strange and dangerous place.
11. Did it perhaps run out of petrol? (=petroleum)
12. Two seconds later, he got the answer when he saw a ten-metre snake slither out of the window on the driver's side.

NOTE: When making up stories with a random number of words, one sometimes needs to use some of them as names to keep the text as condensed as possible because that will give the new words maximum exposure. That's why the names have been translated.

Since these stories are seen as a play, the author has called this method "**WORDS ON STAGE**". Detailed instructions are given in "Spelling word stories 2" and "Zó leer je lezen en schrijven", his latest work written for Dutch Primary Schools.

9. LESS HASTE, MORE SPEED

1. Mrs Holy was filling buckets with water from the well beside an old shed.
2. She had to carry them to the fresh flower beds in the church garden that was begging for still more, so she was all in a huff.
3. Father Butterflower, a rather dull looking priest, was inside the church looking with an air of despair.
4. He had already sent many pray~~er~~~~s~~ to the Lord but to no avail.
5. The kitten next to him that had only just been born didn't budge; it was waiting for its mother to give it its dinner.
6. Instead of continuing his pray~~er~~~~s~~, Father Butterflower had decided to send a letter to farmer Brown in which he begged him to come over with his water truck.
7. As soon as farmer Brown had ~~read~~ the letter, he told everyone in the family to forget what they were doing in order to help the priest.
8. Farmer Brown was the only one who knew the trick of how to start his old-fashioned truck.
9. Unfortunately, he was so eager to help Father Butterflower that he drove too fast because he was too much in a hurry.
10. When he came ~~tear~~~~ing~~ around the corner, he scooped up Mrs Holy and her full bucket!

10. BLUNT PENCIL

1. Another long winter had gone by, so spring was upon us, summer still three month away.
2. Although it had been pretty cold, it had been a winter without snow and ice, the result of global warming, I suppose.
3. Yesterday morning, my sister, my brother and I sat in front of the window hoping to see anything worthwhile, just to have something to do.
4. I had the chickenpox myself so they were not allowed to go to school either.
5. In the afternoon, our father came around the corner of our street with his old car and trailer.
6. By doing so, the trailer cut off the bumper bar of a parked car.
7. The owner who happened to stand next to it while drinking a can of ginger beer didn't make a fuss or sulk but rang at once the police on his mobile.
8. My father kept looking at his feet, his face rather glum.
9. When a stunning police woman arrived, she checked his pulse to make sure he was all right.
10. My father started to blush as if she had given him a kiss.
11. The owner of the damage car thought she should lay charges.
12. However, she told dad to put the bar back on with the excuse that her pencil was too blunt to write out a ticket.

11. THE THREE NUGGETS

1. Nearly twelve years had lapsed since mad Max swapped his job for that of a gold-finder.
2. He went out west and settled in a spot near the bank of a slow running creek where he would be panning for gold.
3. Apart from having an afternoon nap in his hammock strung between two trees, he worked from early morning till dusk.
4. He was an odd fellow, a tramp really. Eventually, he squatted in an old shack, the remnants of a ski lodge.
5. His pants were torn, his thongs as thin as a pancake.
6. He cut down an old telegraph pole and made small logs of it for his campfire.
7. He only lived on quick snacks, he never had a proper meal.
8. He grabbed the out-of-date chops out of the garbage bin of the inn nearby and grilled them in the hot ashes.
9. It doesn't often happen that one becomes rich overnight.
10. Thanks to a stroke of luck he discovered a real treasure.
11. Merely by sitting around scratching, not his head but the ground had he come upon three big nuggets of gold hidden in a kind of underground trough.
12. Since Max had been thirsty for the past twelve years, the innkeeper who wanted to retire sold him the inn.

One proverb says,

12. “SHE WHO IS NOT STRONG MUST BE CUNNING.”

1. In May and June, the weather had been fine, but during the third week of July, it started to rain heavily.
2. It was terrible; it seemed to have set in without stopping.
3. Miss April was born a long time ago but she was still quite active for her age.
4. However, when part of the roof on the living room side started to leak, she panicked.
5. She said to herself, “I’ll try to fix it because if this goes on, I’ll be in trouble.”
6. But no matter how much she tried, it was no use.
7. Not only the living room but also the rest of the house began to slowly fill up with water, thereby turning it in a small pond.
8. She held out another couple of days but by then she saw the need to come up with a bold plan.
9. Anyone who happens to pass by can now see ducks and swans that happily line up when Miss April deals out pellets.

13. IN TROUBLE AGAIN

1. Page is a seven-year-old child with a fringe that almost covers her eyes.
2. After school, she likes to stay in an old shipyard at the end of town, not far from an old coalmine.
3. Since she always gets lost, her address is now written on a card attached to a string around her neck.
4. Late last week, she was swinging on an old swing amidst old boats and trucks.
5. Unfortunately, she didn't pay attention to a wasp until it stung her foot.
6. She used her hand to get rid of it but lost her balance and fell to the ground.
7. Although she had broken one of her ribs, she wanted to sprint away in the hope to hitch a ride with someone who could take her home.
8. Instead of a sprint, it became a combination of limping, skipping and falling.
9. She didn't bring her whistle so she couldn't blow it to attract the attention of people nearby.
10. She had to act fast because the sun started to sink below the horizon.
11. A few minutes later, she only had a last glimpse of the top before it disappeared altogether.

14. A CHAMPION

1. My **c**ousin Sir Ray Beefpie, the **s**on of **a**unt Betty Beefpie, had a bronzed body as strong as that of a **b**ear.
2. He was able to pull five tall **o**aks out of the ground with his **b**are hands, that **m**eans all on his own.
3. Since his eye was as sharp as a **s**ewing machine **n**eedle, he had been a key figure in the army during the war, guarding an oil pipeline running **t**hrough the bush.
4. Few people could add a row of 9-digit numbers as fast as he could and certainly not while putting the kettle on to boil water for tea.
5. He once blew out twenty wax candles in one go, and that's not a lie.
6. When he gave orders, you would think ten dogs were barking; no way in the world could anyone use his voice like that.
7. If a **b**ridge was too low to drive under, he **w**ould just stand on the tip of his **t**oes protected by his army **s**hoes to lift it.
8. **A**unt Betty wanted to **b**uy him a roadmap for his **e**ightieth birthday.
9. I **w**ondered why because he has the map of the whole world stored in his memory bank.

NOTE: Locating the **o** in memory **t**hrough word **b**uilding: mem**o**rial.

10. No matter how many **k**nots you tie in a rope, he'll undo them in five seconds flat.

15. THE BOWL WAS EMPTY

1. Already very early, the heat in – and outside the city had been unbearable.
2. Bill Hunt had gone to a beef cattle fair in East Elbow; he had done it many times before.
3. When he came back, the high, rusty wrought iron gate was open although he had closed it before going away.
4. He thought, “Someone must have gained access to my fowl yard.”
5. His rooster flew up but dropped dead two seconds later.
6. Some fool had killed all his chickens; even his ferns had been trampled upon.
7. He had taken loving care of them because it hadn’t been easy to grow them where he lived.
8. Bill was busy a couple of hours before he went inside; he began to feel both fear and hatred.
9. A sparse light shone from a bulb at the end of dirty cord.
10. Bill combed the few grey hairs he still had.
11. Then he sat down on the edge of an old desk, eating corn with an old fork out of the bowl on his knee.
12. The next morning, he was still sitting there. The bowl was empty, and so was his life.

16. A TALE WITH AN UNEXPECTED TAIL END

1. Mr Wolf had been a taxi driver for over forty years. He was a friendly sort of a man.
2. He had promised to take the Wild Worms-his cricket team-to Salt Lake City for the hard work they had put in.
3. They had wiped out all the other teams during recent test matches.
4. His tiny wife Penny was not really a wise woman, as thin as a telephone wire with a wrinkled skin, the result of using too much soap.
5. She was always in a rush and therefore always tired.
6. She could never wait when she had seen the word SALE somewhere.
7. She would immediately go down to seek out the cheapest things, usually without having any use for it.
8. But today, she went out to buy a spare tyre and above all a warm suit that her husband was sure to wear.
9. Mr Wolf saw her leave and gave her the right sizes.
10. However, she mixed up the numbers so the tyre was too small and the suit too big.
11. Since one is not allowed to change goods when a sale is on, Mr Wolf and The Wild Worms never went to Salt Lake City!

NOTE: L & U relation: old, gold, hold, fold, cold... Holtz

17. REGULAR PARTIES

1. Every second month, nurse March organises a party.
2. Usually to celebrate the feast of some saint.
3. In order to attract different people, she puts an advertisement in the local paper.
4. She often gets as many as eighty people because she also rings around a lot.
5. She has a large abode with a porch facing north, on a narrow piece of land next to a lighthouse.
6. Since it is close to the mouth of a wide river that flows into the ocean, nurse March has learnt to live with the noise of all sorts of heavy traffic.
7. With the money from the sale of raffle tickets, she pays the band that plays all kinds of music.
8. Prizes include: native plants, a pocket knife, matching steak knives, honey, jelly, cans of soup and chocolate paste.
9. At the stroke of midnight, guests leave in hurry, laughing like kookaburras.

NOTE: It's perhaps a good idea to look for letter patterns. Quite a number of English words use an **a** in the last syllable where the Dutch ones use **aa**.

18. SUPERNATURAL POWERS

1. During the annual glass boat race, The Nymph with 100 passengers on board was doing its tenth and last round on the very deep lake.
2. Although all **boats** looked alike, The Nymph was **clearly** the better performer.
3. However, halfway the lake, the **weather** suddenly changed; high waves pounded against the **boat**.
4. A few **seconds** later it was getting **worse**. As a matter of fact, it became dangerous to be on **board**.
5. The helmsman shouted, “Don’t panic! I cannot shut off the engine because I wouldn’t be able to start her up again; we’ve almost spent all the **petrol**. I wish you good luck!”
6. He got the stamp of **approval** from the man in charge who also realised that it wasn’t game any longer.
7. Finally, the **boat** came **upon** a wall constructed with huge blocks of stone, then it hit a wooden post before it ran aground.
8. Most passengers were sick and not the same as when the race started.
9. They felt dizzy as if someone had cast a spell over them. It was hard to stay awake.
10. They seemed to be in a **weird** place; not the one with the familiar grandstand.
11. They didn’t even **know** whether it was still Sunday or already **Monday** (**Moonday**).

OA association: **o**ars, **bo**at, **bo**ard, **so**aring & **ro**aring waves.

19. TRAPPED

1. During September, October, November, December and January, when the museum had been closed due to water damage, a rare art file was stolen from the underground dark room.
2. According to the Press, someone broke in but left no finger-prints.
3. The exact date of the file was not known but it was felt that it might be of the late sixteenth Century because that's when the artist had died.
4. He had both been an artist painter and a teacher.
5. Chief inspector Friday stood in the dark room and began to talk, as she often did, to herself; over and over again.
6. She was about to meet the curator who was to show her a copy thus making it possible for her to commit it to her mind like a silent film.
7. Suddenly, it struck her that she had been locked in.

20. TWO AGAINST ONE

1. Sir Mark Lamb was the coach of The Yellow Devils.
2. He loved to win, he hated to lose.
3. Although he kept a tight rein on his team, he knew that they also needed enough rest.
4. For years, they had been leaders of the competition because they won most games.
5. Sir Mark Lamb was quite rich. Since he was well paid, he didn't have to worry about paying his rates on time.
6. His wife Lady Lamb, once a vain and beautiful woman, had already passed forty.
7. Despite the good life, she could now only move around aided by an old-fashioned maid who still wore plaits.
8. The fact that she relied on the maid was more or less a sign of ill health. Lady Lamb was far from healthy, probably because she only ate sausage rolls for breakfast, brunch, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and supper.
9. One day at noon, they went out into the large garden.
10. When they had passed an old pump and a pile of old telegraph poles, they saw none other than a mean looking lion.
11. It was quite lean and obviously not after a rice-and pear pudding for dessert.
12. Everybody knows that, under such unforeseen circumstances, people start to feel knots in their stomach.

21. FAIRY – TALE

1. Once upon a time, Jupiter the giant lived alone in a cabin near the coast.
2. A wooden fence surrounded his field covered with blueberries.
3. Jupiter always got up early to attend to his berries.
4. The type of earth was such that he didn't need a blade to plough the land. His hands and wrists were strong enough to do it, even without wearing gloves.
5. His abode was close to the burnt-out frame of a flour mill.
6. It had burst into flames when firefighters never noticed it in their haste.
7. Every so often, Jupiter would climb the nearby mountain from where he had a clear view of the valley below.
8. Sometimes, he would go up to the dance. Since everybody knew him, he didn't need proof of age.
9. During interval, the fairies would blindfold him with a piece of silk cloth spun by a spinster.
10. He had to chase the fairies and catch as many as possible while the fairy godmother cheered him on. She was as white and brittle as chalk.
11. Since Jupiter was deaf, he had to rely on scent only.
12. They all had great fun because it was quite funny.
13. After the dance, he counted a dozen fairies, put them into a large chest and carried it down to where they lived; the others had to walk.

REVISION 1: All previous selected words have been mixed and randomly divided into lots of 50 to make up new stories. This unique procedure can be used over and over again.

22. A CHANGE OF PLAN

1. The black-haired maid of Sir Anteater worked from **early** morning **till** after dark.
2. Yet, despite her tiny body, she was never ever sick or tired.
3. Miss **Whipcream** had to look after nine dogs and train them as well.
4. Every day, without fail, she took them to the park to let them have fun with a ball or play in the mud under the grandstand.
5. They also liked to swim in the lake and brave the cold water.
6. Since Sir Anteater and Miss Whipcream live on the other side of our street, we **often** help them.
7. Funnily **enough**, that street is not on the map. The printer says that he will add it when he prints another one.
8. We like to go where Miss Whipcream **goes** and do what she **does**.
9. Her room is like that of a hermit. There's only a table, a chair and a bed. A Dutch flag hangs **above** the door.
10. **Although** she is well paid, she hardly spends anything, so she has a **great deal of money**.
11. She always used to say, "When I retire, I shall **buy** a block of land with a nice **cottage** on it."
12. It never happened because she married Sir Anteater!

NOTE: **EAT** words include: **cream**, **cereals**, **breakfast**, **bread**, **peanut butter**, **beans**, **peas**, **pears**, **peaches**, **meat**, **steak**, **veal**,...

Breakfast=break fasting = het einde van het vasten (slaap)

23. SURPRISE

1. Nearly a week ago on Friday the 24th of December, Page, a six-year-old child, had been doing her crossword puzzle after dinner.
2. Suddenly, she heard a motorcar stop and the doorbell ring. She flung herself off the chair to see who it might be.
3. While she ran, she knocked over a fern, a bucket of water, and a new typewriter, a prize her father had won at the butter factory.
4. She wanted to know who it was so she sang out, "Who is it?"
5. She thought someone might have found her new earrings that she had lost.
6. She had swapped them for a silk shirt and a couple of frisky frogs.
7. However, there was no answer.
8. After a lapse of about two minutes, she could clearly hear someone talk as well as soft music.
9. Since it was already quite late, she thought that it might not be safe now to open the door.
10. Her mother had gone out to the general store to deliver some fowl and fish because the owner had sold out.
11. Her father was already in bed because his pants were hanging over his chair.
12. He had been mowing the grass and had taken the ashes out of the open fireplace.
13. As she stood there, a card with her name on it was shoved under the door.
14. She turned it around and read, "Happy Christmas! The air ticket to visit Santa Claus will be sent tomorrow!"

24. R. S. P. C. A.

1. When Ray Skinhead left school, he took any kind of a job he could find.
2. He dug ponds for people who kept swans, cut down trees that had grubs in them, cleaned windows, made duck pellets, sold Persian rugs, repaired cots and more; in other words anything that would pay his bills.
3. Once in a blue moon, he even picked fruit, mainly pears, when they were ripe of course.
4. At the turn of the century, after about his tenth job, he became a lion tamer.
5. Anybody knows that it is a hazardous occupation.
6. Since Ray didn't want to lose his life yet, he followed special classes in order to have a clean start.
7. Lions can only fix their attention on one thing, that's why lion tamers use a chair to subdue wild animals because the four legs confuse them.
8. Every act had to be done over and over again, started with "On your mark!" and finished by giving, not pies but real meat.
9. In the end, he was able to make them do thing by just pointing to his coloured tie or by winking his eyes.
10. He used a boxtrailer to transport his team of six, thin lions and one wolf.
11. Yesterday, he went out at noon to buy a red coat for the grand opening.
12. He waved to his wife as usual and left. When he came back, six R.S.P.C.A. inspectors awaited him. They booked him for cruelty to animals.

25. MATCHES

1. Last night, at a fairly late hour, Mrs Queen decided to go out instead of going down below to sit in the brightly lit garden on the East Coast.
2. She combed her hair and gave the cat a hug and a little bowl of fresh milk.
3. At dusk, the cat would not only chase mice but also catch them because he knew where they liked to hide.
4. Mrs Queen walked towards the local inn at her end of town so she hadn't far to go.
5. She often had a drink there. She must have been a good teacher because she could still dance like a graceful fairy.
6. She didn't mind to sometimes show off her talents.
7. Suddenly, she heard a kind of strange noise; not as loud as a car crash but more like someone scratching chalk with a knife.
8. "What on earth could it be", she thought. Instead of walking, she almost skipped.
9. Sitting on a piece of dirty cloth and gnawing at corn on the cob, she saw him. She could count the ribs on his bare chest.
10. It started to send shivers up her spine; she wanted to run away and cry.
11. He certainly knew the trick to attract people!
12. He greeted her politely with "Good evening Your Highness" and then begged her to buy one box of matches.
13. There were only two left so in the end, she bought them both.

NOTE: CH=K in: church, chalk, chest,... Compare: knife
knippen
shovel=schep van schoffel. Van V naar F: vis=fish.....

26. A DAIRY GODMOTHER

1. Miss Swift was a pretty stunning looking woman.
2. She was a real life-wire full of energy, so her brightly coloured skirts suited her.
3. She hardly ever stopped, never looked at the clock.
4. Since she was as thin as a nymph, she kept a part-time job testing small sized cars although her toes could hardly reach the pedals.
5. She moved around like a wriggling worm or sat in an old armchair curled up like hibernating snake.
hiver=winter (Fr.)
6. Many people knew her because she often hang around a wild rockband in Port Oak where she lived on her own.
7. That happened when she had spent all her money. While she stamped her feet and shouted their songs, she served her customers who came to her covered stall to eat cake and drink tea or have the face of their children painted.
8. One day, a fair haired farmer came past with his son, a boy aged six. He had seen how good she was.
9. He didn't have any money on him but offered her a trip in his speedboat or the calf he had in a cage on the roof of his car.
10. Although the poor thing didn't look too healthy, Miss Swift decided to take it. She called it Moonshine.
11. With lots of care, Moonshine turned into a beautiful cow who gave her many calves and milk, so her friends started to call her the Dairy Godmother.

NOTE: B & V relation: hiber-hiver, move-mobile.

Associate: boat, coast, oars,...

27. VANDALISM

1. In March, the priest of the church on the fringe of the town organised a fair to raise money.
2. It coincided with the feast of a saint who had performed miracles.
3. The priest had been sad for quite a while and afraid that what had happened could happen again; a modern variation on iconoclasm.
4. Some madmen had gone berserk. They had not only stolen holy artwork but also the church bell.
5. Judging by the marks on the ground, they had dragged it to a waiting van. They had even killed the owls that flew from their nest.
6. They must have had pretty sharp saw-blades to cut the 500-year-old fence into small pieces. They obviously had enough time to carry them to a cart.
7. The day before, the same madmen must have got hold of the key to a holy desk while Father Flatfoot had a nap because all the holy papers had gone.
8. However, today the priest was happy again because many people had turned up.
9. While standing in the porch, he shook hands with anyone who walked past.
10. A large trough with water for thirsty horses was placed near the entrance of the grounds.
11. When it was half empty, two schoolboys, sons of Mr King, filled it up again with water from the tank beside an old shed around the corner.
12. Mr King's wife sold the wool from the sheep that had been shorn for the occasion.

28. JUST IN TIME

1. At the beginning of spring, on a Monday, two men from Down Under wanted to make a round-trip with a de-luxe coach.
2. They were good friends of our aunt April.
3. The party was going to have a picnic on top of a very high cliff.
4. Actually, judging by the amount of food they brought, it was going to be a big meal.
5. The good news was that it didn't rain; the weather was fine.
6. The driver's red haired wife gave everyone sweet jellybeans and an apple which seemed to suit everybody.
7. The two men sat in the front row because they had never seen a beach nor big ships.
8. Although the driver didn't rush, the coach still seemed to have wings.
9. Just as well the driver was wide awake.
10. He had to stop because a big cow stood in the middle of the road with her feet trapped in a grid.
11. All hearts started to pump faster; some people ever got heartburn which can easily be cured at low cost.
12. One of the two men said, "We had better get her out of there!"
13. Since they didn't have a blunt pitchfork handy to prod her with, they wrapped a rope around her tail and pulled as hard as they could because that makes a cow jump forward.
14. When the coach finally reached the top of the cliff, the driver's wife got out to take a photograph.
15. Unfortunately, she got dizzy and was about to fall.
16. Fortunately, a police helicopter happened to be on the scene to rescue her.

29. A YELLOW YARD

1. Once upon a time, there was a chicken farmer **whose** farm was on the corner of West Street and Fairyland Lane.
2. The farmer had been quite satisfied with the performance of his free range chickens.
3. However, from the first of September till the last day in December, the egg production did not meet the usual standard.
4. Although his chickens happily hopped around as freely as before, he gave them some extra snacks in the hope to make them lay more. It didn't help.
5. One day, while inspecting his fences, he found some footprints.
6. Judging by the pattern, they were made by the **shoes** of some one else, not by his because **shoes** of that size would have hurt his **toes**.
7. So he decided to keep going to see where the prints led to.
8. He couldn't hurry because rain had already washed away most of them.
9. He went as far as the home of his **neighbour** **whom** he didn't see very **often**.
10. He had **learnt** that the man had been the boss of a **soap** factory, and that the use of alcohol had sent him bankrupt.
11. So it was hard to understand that he still could throw a party once a month.
12. The man in dirty shorts looked like a tramp.
13. He was **sewing** a **button** **onto** a shirt while sitting on a fairly large chest in **front** of his shed.
14. Seven cats with seven kittens each were drinking yellowish milk from fourteen bowls on the ground.
15. The farmer could feel the heat of the burning logs from a chopped up dead tree.
16. A drunken voice said, "How are ye's?" Since the farmer was **deaf**, he didn't answer. The man didn't stay there for very long.
17. The farmer grabbed him by the scruff of the neck and threw him with all his might in the ashes like a chop to be grilled.
18. In doing so, the chest rolled over and a thousand **and** **and** one eggs coloured the ground yellow.

30. “WAIT HERE”

1. Mr Broadband's sister Vanessa owns a nursery with hard to get plants.
2. When you cannot get what you want anywhere else, you can be sure that she has it.
3. She lives on site in a kind of ski-lodge.
4. One day, she got up early because she had to personally deliver some exotic seedlings to the Mayor of Hanging Rock.
5. She went into her pink and green bathroom singing a top-ten tune.
6. There was a smell of lavender. A cloud of steam rose from the bathtub while it slowly filled up.
7. Her brother always said, “Her bathwater is too hot; for most people it would be even too hot to make a cup of tea with it!
I still cannot convince her that it is like committing suicide; maybe someone else should have a go.”
8. Sure enough, Vanessa got out not like someone who blushes, but as dark red as strawberry jam.
9. She got dressed, combed her hair and hung the wet towel on the clothes-line.
10. It was already quite warm on this third day of July so she got her straw hat with a pink bow out and left.
11. She went as usual much too fast without her seatbelt on.
12. When she came upon the ferry, her brakes were good enough to stop the van at the sign that read, “WAIT HERE”, but Vanessa herself went through the windscreen and plunged into the river.

31. THE TRUCK WITH DUCKS

1. Last week, nurse Bandid and myself had four days off, so we decided to do some bushwalking.
2. We had never set foot on anything else but city streets.
3. We **thought** that it might be a good idea to bring a rope, gloves and thermos-flasks filled with cold water.
4. When we came to a spot close to the river bank, we noticed a tall, **grey** haired man standing next to a truck full of crates with ducks in them.
5. He was **wearing** thongs and worn cords. With gold rings in his nose and ears, he seemed an odd fellow.
6. He called out if we could perhaps help him but then **laughed** at the very idea.
7. He had a blow out; a spare tyre was lying on the ground.
8. It looked rather **heavy** to pick up, let alone to put it on.
9. He told us that the spare was flat; he had to act quickly to solve the problem on his own, because it was getting late.
10. **Although** he was well spoken, we wished to **know** why anyone would drive off the beaten track with a **load** of ducks.
11. We didn't want to jump to conclusions but it struck us that we might have come upon a stolen truck.
12. The day before, an article in the local press had mentioned that ducks would bring \$3 a piece before Christmas.
13. The man must have read our **thoughts** because we had never seen anyone sprint away that fast.

NOTE: heave-heavy

32. SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

1. Every summer on Sunday afternoon, taxidriver Lamb^b, his mate and their two boys lea^{ve} by Qantas jet to go to a place in the Sugarloa^f Mountaⁱⁿs where there is plenty of snow for them to ski.
2. The trips are always booked well in advance.
3. Mr Lamb^b lea^{ves} his Yellow Cab in the yard of the company.
4. There is enou^{gh} time to do what needs doing because they won't be back until the end of January.
5. This year, the engine has to be pulled out to fix an oil leak and the clutch has to be adjusted.
6. The birds will do what they always do, but Mr Lamb won't make a fuss.
7. His boy will wash the car, rinse it off and wipe it dry.
8. This will be the third serv^{ice}; next year, the car will be put up for sale or traded in against a new one.
9. These boys are always looking forward to this real adventure.
10. As soon as Mr Lamb^b gives the sign that morning tea with beef pies has finished, they hop on a chair of the ski lift.
11. Then they love to roa^m like free range chickens.
12. They always wea^r special glasses to protect their eyes against the glare of the snow.
13. In the evening, they play table tennis in a competition held in the clubhouse.
14. Each boy draws a number to find out against whom he starts.
15. Today, Mr Lamb^b's boy came down with such speed that he debarked a 100-year-old tree!

33. AN UNUSUAL GUEST

1. Count Billabong (stagnant pool in a dried up Australian river) of Queensland had a big house and a deep swimming pool with water from the nearby ocean.
2. The A-frame cabin in the garden was used by his son when he came home from boarding school.
3. Inside was a set of drums with earplugs so that he could only just hear the beats.
4. There was bed to sleep in, a wash-basin and a 12-volt battery attached to a 12-volt lightbulb that gave enough light to read by.
5. The hut was left unlocked. We were told that the Count had no fear that someone would brake in thanks to a dull looking but ferocious dog.
6. Anyone game enough to enter would leave again limping with broken bones, bleeding knees and wrists.
7. During the month of November, the Count and the Countess went to France.
8. The Count to do show jumping on his pedigree horses while the Countess wanted to ride her horses in a dressage competition to carry out a complex routine according to strict rules.
9. Strangely enough, they kept the dog in the house where it would be looked after by the maid, thus making it easy for anyone to enter the cabin.
10. One day, a squatter passed by and broke in. He smashed the window because he didn't expect the door to be unlocked.
11. The funny thing was that he didn't take the money left in the drawer whereas he did take a lot of other things that had no value.
12. He finished all the cans of soup and even caught two mice with one mousetrap.
13. He left a letter that read, "Thanks for your hospitality. The roof was leaking so I fixed it; I think I made a good job of it. Once begun, it didn't take long."

34. CONSCIENCE

1. Mrs Breadroll was a wise, old lady.
2. However, she was rather poor, so during winter, in order to keep warm, she burnt the oak posts from the pile next to her simple abode.
3. When they were wet, thick smoke would come out of the chimney.
4. Her chickens never seemed to stop laying eggs.
5. Once a week, she would go to market to sell them together with the rare roses she grew in a glass house.
6. People would readily buy them, not only because they were of such good quality but also because people were getting them at a very low price.
7. Well before other merchants shut their stalls, Mrs Breadroll had none left.
8. One day, she happily went back home at the rate of four km per hour because her horse was also quite old.
9. While the cart went up the hill, one of the two tyres had a puncture.
10. Just as well she had kept hold of the reins. She didn't sulk because things like this made up the story of her life.
11. She undid the nuts, gave the wheel a tap so that it would come off and replaced it by her spare one.
12. Afterwards, she sat down to have a rest and also gave the horse a spell to seek a few blades of grass.
13. Once she was on her way again, she noticed two girls that looked alike. She recognised them because of it. A while ago, they had stolen some of her roses.
14. The twins were walking along the creek, still wearing their school uniform. Suddenly, one pushed the other one into the water.
15. Although the girl could obviously swim, the creek was known to be infested with dangerous and mean looking fish.
16. The girl screamed while kicking them away with her boots.
17. Her sister stood at the edge of the creek, frozen as if under a spell. Mrs Breadroll was the only one around and also bold enough to rescue the girl.

35. PANCAKES

1. John Priest was a cheerful man who always wore a fur hat, rain or shine.
2. He had a dozen grown-up children so there were twelve mouths to feed plus his own and that of his wife Mad Mary.
3. The whole family always got up early to then stroll down to a giant field in the north of the country.
4. It was covered with flowering plants and tulip bulbs.
5. Too difficult to count how many let alone to work out the money it would yield.
6. They had to water each plant but not too much otherwise they would sink into the mud.
7. Once a week, they had to lie down to inspect the underside of each leaf to see if it had spots on it or not.
8. It was not heavy work but still very demanding.
9. At midday, they would all sit down to have lunch without haste; once finished, they would have a nap.
10. John Priest was known all over the world. Every year, people would be coming to his house. They dropped in to ask him if he could teach them his methods of which they could see proof.
11. John knew that they would never be able to copy his methods and that they would soon forget what he had told and shown them
12. One day when they had guests again, Mad Mary decided to make pancakes; she had already bought self-rising flour and a new frying pan.
13. She wanted to leave the dough for an hour before starting to bake, so she said to herself, "I feel like getting rid of the swallow nest, these birds make too much of a mess!"
14. She went to the old shack and got out the swing that hadn't been used for years. She hooked it up onto the rusty hooks that were still in the porch close to the nest.
15. However, the seat was mouldy and as slippery as toothpaste. When she stepped onto it, she skidded off a split second later.
16. With Mad Mary on crutches, the guests had to bake their own pancakes.

36. AN INVITATION

1. Sir Ant-Hill was born in 1920.
2. When he left school, he used to run a bus company.
3. In his spare time, he would race cars on the salt plains doing at least 120 knots.
4. During World War II, he spent five years in the army.
5. He was the head of a battalion leading them into the coal mines, game enough to hunt the enemy.
6. Those days must have been terrible; it meant flirting with death all the time.
7. Although Sir Ant-Hill is still as strong as a bear, he won't walk barefoot anymore because a bomb blew off the toes of his left foot.
8. After the war, he moved into a stone cottage with a glass roof. On a clear night, he could see the Pole Star in the sky.
9. A Friesian cow supplied milk, cream, butter, buttermilk, yoghurt and cheese.
10. Each year in June, he and a few of his soldiers that fought for their country organised their annual get together.
11. For a couple of hours, they would relive the past again.
12. Although he never had plans to remarry, they changed overnight as soon as he saw Penny Rice, the woman who delivered the mail; his pulse quickened.
13. She was a delicate and good looking sort of woman with brown hair and a slender neck.
14. However, he thought, "Less haste, more speed. I have to be tactful, especially with my injured leg."
15. So the same day, he suggested that she should come over after work to help him milk the cow.

37. CAMPING

1. We are a horse family.
 2. Everyone has one; mine is a chestnut mare whereas the others all have geldings.
 3. We take them to fairs to show them, but not when the weather is too bad. We've done it once but that was enough.
 4. In October, we enjoy climbing mountains, not the very high ones of course. There are plenty of those to which one can gain easy access.
 5. Every year, my little sister puts up a fight when my parents don't allow her to take whatever she fancies.
 6. Some time ago, she wanted to take her budgerigar (green Australian parrot) that could chirp a real song. She pouted and didn't budge for hours.
 7. When it died, she dug a hole in the ground and buried it. She still remembers the date.
 8. Sometimes, she wants to take her pet hen or her pram with dolls. If we point out that those things will be a nuisance, she hates us, gets all in a huff and finally burst into tears.
 9. We usually go to a sought-after camping where we put up our tent with strings tied to heavy iron pegs because we were once blown away in a freak storm.
 10. At night, it gets pretty cold so we light a couple of logs to get warm and to boil water in the billy.
 11. During the day, we sometimes search for wild honey or pick dark blueberries.
 12. There is a lake nearby where one can hire sailing boats. Since the weather can change abruptly, it is felt that the person who holds the ropes must have fairly strong arms.
 13. Although it doesn't often happen, once in a while there are fools who fiddle around with word processors, laptops, mobile phones, bags full of files and loud music to annoy everybody else. When they are asleep, they frequently snore as well.
- NOTICE:** birds chirp.

PART 2

38. A CHANGE OF LIFESTYLE

1. Mr Eveready had been a shopkeeper since the beginning of last year.
2. The store is situated in a quiet spot on the south side of a river in the southern part of New South Wales.
3. One can only reach it by boat, but only when the weather is not too rough.
4. It is next to a sports oval and an army camp.
5. It is twice as big as the usual one.
6. Many shelves line the walls; not one shelf is empty.
7. A large assortment includes: knitting wool, radios, spades, spare parts for lawnmowers and speedboats, iron roofing sheets, shock absorbers, bullets for shooting wild boars, sugar coated biscuits because he had a sweet tooth himself, hence a fair amount of toothpaste.
8. When it is sunny, he gets a taste of staring at passing craft in spite of his rather poor eyesight.
9. The truth is that his thoughts are really quite nostalgic.
10. He used to have a nursery. During a storm, all his glass houses were smashed to smithereens.
11. He had tried to be a real hero and fight to save as much as possible, but in vain.
12. He twisted his ankles, lost two thumbs and consequently needed special treatment. At present, he still walks with a stiff leg.
13. He was smart enough to make the decision to change his lifestyle although he knew that he had to sit tight for quite a while.

NOTE: oval-ovaaal (letterlijk ei-vormig). **Compare:** knit-knot.
laundry=lawn dry=drogen op de bleek (bleach)=grasveld.

39. SILVER AT LAST

1. Hungry Jack is a strong and healthy person. Although school starts at eight o'clock, he arrives at nine.
2. He never listens to the teacher; quite a number of lessons go by without teaching him anything. His parents are of course never pleased with his reports.
3. Nobody can handle him, no matter what strategy they use.
4. He disturbs the lesson either by breaking pencils or by quarrelling with other students. He is a strain on the system.
5. People have called him The Monkey because he always climbs on ladders or runs up and down the stairs.
6. He usually injures himself, so he is seldom without stitches.
7. One day when the teachers were on strike, he went fishing in a nearby stream. Instead of the proper bait he used some sticky stuff he found in the garbage bin.
8. He poisoned all the fish instead of catching them.
9. That finished his school years. The headmaster didn't allow him to come back, partly to get back to normal and partly for his own safety.
10. His uncle owned an island off the coast of the Northern Territory.
11. He invited Hungry Jack to come over hoping to straighten out the boy a bit.
12. Although it needed some smooth talk, Hungry Jack decided to accept the offer.
13. He had to help clear the forest that mainly consisted of hollow trees.
14. Afterwards, there was plenty of ground to establish a market garden, mainly to grow sweet potatoes.
15. However, it never happened. While Hungry Jack was disturbing an anthill, he discovered a silver mine.

NOTE: handle-handling, listen to-luisteren naar, quarrel-quarrelling, pencil-nostril-tonsils-anvil-evil-devil, heal-healthy, steal-stealthy, weal-wealthy, my son=a person.

40. ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

1. My uncle Wheatbix was almost sixty when he married a young woman with three rings on each finger, and three babies whose tender bottoms were always sore.
2. Consequently, she often visited her own doctor who lived three hours away by car.
3. One day, she was caught in peak hour traffic so she could only travel at 20 km an hour.
4. She started to worry while sitting behind the wheel on her threadbare seat.
5. However, no way in the world could she expect to make it unless she changed where the road divided into two branches.
6. She decided to choose the left one. She was so eager to be on time that she hadn't seen the sign "Wrong Way; Go Back!" nor had she heard the voice that belonged to a cheese merchant going in the opposite direction.
7. Anyway, her panic button wasn't pushed in until she came upon a narrow bridge with a truck on it that didn't leave enough room to pass.
8. Never before had her life been in danger.
9. She could either stop the engine and write off her car, herself and the babies or drive into the shallow but fast running creek.

41. THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM

1. Sometimes, somewhere or once in a while everywhere, one gets the strange feeling that, for a brief moment, nothing happens.
2. Everything seems to have come to a standstill as if waiting in anticipation for a surprise party.
3. Someone with past experience will understand but still wonder where trouble will strike.
4. Everybody who was once a patient in the Daisy Valley Country Hospital for children will remember the day it struck.
5. They would start with recalling the picture of friendly staff synchronised like the cast of a musical.
6. They will hear the screams again and remember the hoarse throats afterwards.
7. It happened somewhere between breakfast and supper.
8. All of a sudden, the weather changed.
9. Dark clouds rose like purple coloured cauliflowers above the horizon.
10. Since light travels a million times faster than sound, lightning was followed by a deafening clap of thunder.
11. The whole building shook like a field of barley in de wind.
12. Instead of trying to be useful, the staff scattered like the Flight of the Bumble-Bees.
13. Beds with patients started rolling through the open doors.
14. Anybody who made the mistake of trying to stop them was thrown aside towards the walls.
15. Though the turmoil only lasted one minute, it had created such a havoc that it took months to get back to normal.

42. A NIGHT OUT

1. Jack Duke was a huge man with a head full of curls.
2. He was calm, witty and a real daredevil.
3. His aim was to beat others regardless of the danger involved.
4. Since he was very healthy, the wounds incurred would usually heal rapidly.
5. As a matter of fact, he was obviously not afraid to die, knowing that his friends and fans would be honoured to bury him.
6. He worked for a firm with its base in the city but he went wherever he had to drill a bore where rainfall was scarce.
7. Jack earned quite a bit of money but owing to his gambling and drinking habits, he was always in debt and owed people big sums of money.
8. He had joined a bowling club with poker machines so one night, he decided to dine there.
9. He ordered a huge dish of curried prawns and rice.
10. To quench his thirst, he drank a whole case of beer.
11. He ignored the law and climbed behind the wheel of his vehicle.
12. Since he had failed to check the fuel gauge before he left, he soon ran out of gas.
13. He didn't even have a coin left to ring a taxi let alone to pay the fare nor did he have any idea where he was.
14. So he sat and gazed into the dark distance, arms folded.
15. He lit a cigarette. Its glow was enough to vaguely see the form of a kangaroo that leapt by.
16. Finally, someone came to his aid. Unfortunately, it happened to be a dashing sergeant of the local police station.
17. Although Jack was quite harmless, the sergeant led him away and locked him up in a vacant cell.
18. At dawn, it dawned on him what had happened.

43. TONE POEM WRITTEN BY AN UNKNOWN POET

1. When two ships collided in the mist, only one lifeboat with 20 people could be lowered.
2. The others went down with the sinking wrecks.
3. Since there was no officer of any rank amongst them, they voted unanimously to obey the rules set by a seasoned sailor for the mere sake of trying to survive.
4. It was a difficult task, especially since, the following day, a storm blew up.
5. The rise and fall of the roaring waves didn't allow the use of oars which was a pity because people were thrown from side to side like a tossed salad.
6. Two days later, the ocean was again as calm as a fishpond.
7. Suddenly, they spotted a whale straight ahead.
8. It approached at a very slow pace; it seemed to be wounded and weak.
9. To show that it was still alive, it gave a whip with its tail as if in anger.
10. Water stirred and an apron of spray shot into the air.
11. Without warning, it tried to rip the lifeboat apart.
12. A ruined boat would mean the loss of twenty lives.
13. Praying aloud hadn't saved them; the whale had given up.
14. When it grew dark, flares were sent up in the hope that they would be seen by those on duty on nearby ships.
15. One would have to agree that a short term tour in a railway carriage on solid soil would be less alarming. Watching the landscape go by with a pair of binoculars or pouring the wine selected from a seemingly endless list while munching on oven-fresh cheese crackers would be less dangerous.
16. Even the loss of one's weekly wage would be preferable to the loss of one's life!

44. THE REWARD FOR EVIL DOERS

1. Dennis Devil was a proud man with the build of a wild beast, cruel but full of charm.
2. Although he was blessed with an excellent brain, he had elected to involve himself in crime and bloodshed.
3. As the result of his pride, he was his own enemy from his birth to his untimely death.
4. He rapidly got angry when things didn't quite happen the way he had anticipated.
5. That's why Bill Price, both his pupil and shareholder, was bound to refuse a reply to a question when in doubt.
6. Bill had an awful cough so he couldn't be blamed for never raising his voice; it would drain most of his energy.
7. Bill had equal shares in the business of selling stolen antique furniture, usually acquired after an armed hold-up.
8. The loot was then stored in one of Devil's empty buildings. Worthless bric-a-brac was amongst it to avoid suspicion.
9. Dennis claimed that he had the widest price range. One could buy a cheap sideboard as well as a medieval brass basin with fancy curves.
10. One day during an auction, the crowd entered by a narrow side door. Dennis and Bill stood outside to carefully check each visitor.
11. Suddenly, a police car came tearing around the corner. Since its brakes failed, it ran into the tree next to the two men.
12. Instead of the law taking its course, fate interfered.
13. The shock caused a huge bough of the tree to break off and crush the two evil men to death!

45. ME NO SPEAK ENGLISH

1. A troop of soldiers of a special task force that had served in Vietnam heard that they had to trace an almost extinct tribe in the heart of Brazil.
2. Captain Grant Grace was in charge.
3. The members of the tribe were descendants from slaves that had escaped from Dutch Guyana, now Suriname.
4. These people had been imported from Africa by slave traders of their own blood.
5. The slaves had to work on plantations, often while chained to heavy steel balls to prevent them from escaping. They had no spare time.
6. During the slave trade it is estimated that a total of 10 000 were brought in by ship.
7. In the event of a heavy swell or flood, only one strip of land along the shoreline could be trusted to offload the human cargo stored below deck like stock that had to share only a limited space.
8. Nowadays, it would be hard to guess at the way these people suffered. When reading the many accounts, a spoilt brat might even faint.....
9. The troopers followed a narrow trail that led towards the upper slopes of a high mountain.
10. They passed several graves, each one indicated by a large wooden spoon, probably symbolising an outstretched arm with a hand begging for food.
11. Suddenly, they noticed two shapes near the flame of a small fire.
12. The smell of burnt flesh reached their noses.
13. When they came closer, one of the two shapes turned out to be a very old woman in a fancy dress. She was grinding grain between two stones.
14. An old man, face turned towards the sky, seemed to recite some spiritual verse.
15. The troopers greeted them politely. The old woman ignored them but the old man said, "Sorry, me no speak English!"

46. IN SEARCH OF HAPPINESS

1. Princess Pandora was the beautiful daughter of King Atilla of Arnhem Land, an area in the mountains of The Northern Territory of Australia, once called New Holland.
2. She lived in a pleasant, little village together with her regular staff that was always on duty.
3. Although her father didn't deny her anything, he didn't receive the hoped-for reward. Indeed, he was often in debt.
4. Pandora wanted to discover happiness and spent most of her day writing different adventure stories in which a handsome prince invariably took her away on his foaming stallion.
5. She even bought an expensive royal blue blouse to make herself prettier than ever.
6. When she saw that her long, straight hair covered most of it, she cut it off with a pair of garden scissors; a difficult job to say the least.
7. The question of how to find what would turn her life into a wonderful event was never answered.
8. One day, she said to herself, "Tonight, I will be a passenger on a ship to make an adventurous voyage.
9. At 5 o'clock, she bought a one-way ticket that would take her to the harbour.
10. The whistle! The smoke of the powerful steam engine. The movement of the carriage with Princess Pandora in a first-class one.
11. The station entrance with its pale electric light bulbs went by.
12. The train had to cover quite a distance of acres and acres of land, not with lush, green vegetables like in Holland, but mostly with scattered, dry shrubs and red sandy soil.
13. Then darkness came together with a strange silence that was only interrupted by the regular rhythmic rattle of the wheels.
14. Once on board, she moved into a small cabin and scanned the paper to see if there was anything of interest written by readers. Suddenly, she heard feet shuffle and the whispering of voices. A second later, a letter was shoved under the door.
15. It read, "Welcome on board. Meet me tomorrow at midnight near the life rafts on the upper deck. It's important!"

47. THE PLIGHT OF A CLOWN (part 1)

1. My cousin Damien Double was a gentle, honest fellow who wanted to become a professional clown.
2. Damien followed a couple of courses in the various cities of the district.
3. They usually took place in February on Thursdays and Saturdays.
4. He would depart early in the morning on his pushbike.
5. When he eventually got a job in a small circus, he was dressed in the usual cotton outfit worn by clowns all over the world.
6. He had an act together with a rope-walker.
7. The rope consisted of two halves joint by a table at which the rope-dancer was going to have breakfast at a considerable height.
8. He would stand motionless awaiting the plate, the cutlery and the food that Damien had to throw up.
9. The success of it always drove the crowd nearly insane.
10. A high degree of precision was necessary and often the result of someone who doesn't accept defeat.
11. Indeed, many people haven't got the faintest idea of how much time is spent on practising an act.
12. After finishing his first part, Danien would glance up to follow his partner in order to pull the safety net if he noticed the slightest change in an action.
13. After the meal, the rope-dancer would gracefully slide towards the solid ledge on the other end.
14. However, to increase the suspense and to make people laugh, the acrobat would fake losing his balance so that Damien would activate the net that would then fall on top of him.
15. Although he was taught to fake running away, workers who also wanted a good laugh had left a sledge hammer and other objects in his way.

47. THE PLIGHT OF A CLOWN (part 2)

16. To escape injury, he had to avoid tripping over the hammer or dive into the swimming pool for the seals.
17. He opted in favour of the pool.
18. Helpers started to gather the things he had dropped on the way.
19. Since Damien couldn't swim like the seals, he almost drowned.
20. He had to be carefully carried to a doctor to obtain a referral for the lung specialist who had to check and see how much damage was done.
21. Two months later, Damien left the hospital and decided that he wanted to become a rope-danser because it seemed to be less hazardous than being a clown.

48. PEPPER SPRAY

1. Headmaster Prince had a lovely nature; he was a rather silent individual.
2. He usually sat in his modern, square office of a public school in the country.
3. His mighty figure cast a shadow twice as long as that of the tallest student.
4. The orange colour of the office was specifically chosen because of his Dutch, Irish background.
5. Even his scarf was orange and just about 365 days of 24 hours around his neck because he suffered from hayfever.
6. Mr Prince had been an agent in the secret service and then managed a prison for women for a while.
7. When he became headmaster, the school almost changed overnight.
8. His inaugural speech consisting of short phrases only lasted one minute and one second.
9. He promised that, by the middle of the following year, all students would be able to properly read and write as well as excel in mental arithmetic thanks to his “Back to Basics” approach frowned upon by lucrative commercial enterprise.
10. Some members of the P&C (Parents & Citizens) were so excited that they took turns in polishing his shoes.
11. They decorated the whole length of his office wall with a chart showing a great number of insects in colour.
12. They ploughed a narrow parcel of land, turned it into a vegetable garden, removed a heap of rubbish and built a huge cage for European rabbits.
13. Native trees lined a salt water pool for the young seal they borrowed from the local zoo.
14. Consequently, everything was a different kettle of fish.

48. PEPPER SPRAY (cont.)

15. Since it was the work of volunteers, nobody lost any money, nobody made a profit.
16. Mr Prince never issued merit certificates. However, someone who produced an outstanding result was given permission to swim a whole day in the swimming pool of the seal.
17. The first reward was rewarded to Cole Porter who could recite the Lord's prayer in record time.
18. Mr Prince praised him profusely.
19. Everybody felt that the girl who ran second had a nasty streak in her that was kindled by jealousy.
20. That's why everybody thought that she must have secretly put some powdered pepper in the headmaster's overcoat pocket because he remained sneezing steadily for a whole month.
21. Mr Prince handed in his notice and returned to his previous place of employment.
22. Finding the real culprit was of course like trying to find a needle in a haystack.

49. SIDETRACKED

1. The diamond factory had been located at the same address for 150 years.
2. It contained a dazzling display of specimen from the rough to the polished.
3. Visitors were allowed to wander around under the supervision of the plain clothes, ex-army captain John Butcher who had once been the example of a perfect soldier controlled by courage.
4. Afterwards, they could go to the kitchen for a cup of coffee.
5. During the evening, John would retire to his apartment beneath the building, at the end of a narrow passage.
6. Several leather armchairs stood against the wall.
7. He would recline in one of them to read a chapter of a new book, sit at his desk to write replies to correspondence received (receive-reception) or relay messages that required immediate attention.
8. Sometimes he was just content to stretch out on a couch full of cushions and hidden behind a heavy curtain.
9. At the stroke of midnight, he was in bed within two seconds because it had already been made in the morning.
10. One day, he had arranged to take delivery of a special cargo of uncut diamonds that had made a long journey from a distant mine.
11. Unfortunately, he happened to be too sick to protect the valuable cargo, so he put what he thought to be a reliable man in charge.
12. I suppose someone with a measure of suspicion as soon as something didn't seem all right.
13. However, the man was foolish enough to accept a drink from a dubious character that had been waiting in the shelter of the railway station.
14. Seconds later, one could have knocked him over with a feather.
15. The precious cargo was then quickly transferred from the railway wagon to a waiting truck.

50. ONLY THE LOOSE CHANGE

1. Madam Butterfly was a merry human being.
2. She was about to marry the wealthy owner of the Railroad Hotel, built at least eight hundred years ago.
3. The owner by the name of Garry Goalkeeper had given her a box full of jewels and a gold chain because he thought that it might capture the attention of the local folks.
4. It could perhaps cause them to become customers and bring in some extra money.
5. Those who were unable to drive home because of their alcoholic overdose would be driven by the boss himself because driving under the influence is an offence.
6. To celebrate their honeymoon, he had bought tickets for a roundtrip on a paddle-steamer.
7. Since the journey began on the first Tuesday in July and would end on the second Wednesday in August, Garry had to cancel all his other engagements.
8. It also meant that he had to find a suitable person who had to prove that he or she was able to run the business; in itself quite a difficult project and subject to trust.....
9. When they had recovered from their honeymoon, Garry managed the bar again and Butterfly began to inspect the state of the rooms, especially that of the bed linen.
10. She wrote to the Taxation Department that she now kept track of the account in order to pay tax accurate to the nearest cent.
11. Since her arrival, the level of income had increased dramatically so she ought to be proud of herself.
12. One night, when she was checking the till, a rude intruder took all the loose change sorted out on the counter; she almost had a heart attack!
13. Since the culprit was blind, he didn't see the banknotes!

51. THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

1. A canvas tent held up by metal posts stood on top of Point Piper, the highest look-out on the otherwise flat and peaceful plain.
2. A stout man dressed in an army overcoat with the collar up slowly walked in a circle around it.
3. He surveyed the plain beneath across which cattle and other animals roamed.
4. Like Napoleon, he appeared to prepare a strategic battle and to find a spot from where he had the best chance of successfully attack the solemn looking castle.
5. Richard Rebel had always admired the powerful king who had now ordered him to attend an interview.
6. He picked up his camera and took a picture. Then, instead of fetching his bottle of bitter lemon, he decided to put his small copper kettle on his little campfire to boil water for a cup of coffee.
7. Although he didn't appear to be hasty, his action showed that he didn't waste time either.
8. Indeed, he wanted to arrive at the stipulated time to answer the king's questions.
9. The offer to become part of the king's household was very appealing.
10. He would be in charge to keep watch over the king's daughter who had been asleep for the past ten years.
11. The king was afraid that the witch who had cast a spell over her would return to take her away.
12. The whole project was worth quite a large amount of money that would be paid in euros instead of in dollars.
13. After all, the king could afford to pay that much because he had bought the castle which could be used as security to borrow money.....
14. After the interview, Richard asked if he could play on the piano in order to relax and lessen the weight the king had put on his shoulders.....
15. As soon as she heard the music of "The Sleeping Beauty", unknown to the two men, colour reappeared on the face of the princess, and seconds later, she was wide awake!

52. THE NOTE THAT GOT STUCK

1. Victor Broad, the forty-four-year old chief conductor of the Royal Court Orchestra was always on guard to keep his nerves under control despite the faith in himself.
2. It might sound strange because he boasted that he could remember the exact score without error.
3. He had even received a medal for this outstanding achievement.
4. His final public appearance was going to be held in the vast Entertainment Centre with seats for quite a broad audience.
5. The program listed the 5th and the 9th symphonies by Beethoven, a piece for choir and orchestra as well as the guest appearance of the conductor's niece who was to sing the famous Ave Maria.
6. Daily rehearsals were scheduled because Victor didn't admit the slightest flaw in the performance.
7. Consequently, one error would already be fatal, annoy him immensely and reach the bottom of his tolerance.
8. Especially since the local press would be represented and judges were sure to concentrate on his musical ability from every angle.
9. A fatal error would mean a delay in the rehearsals.
10. Victor's clerk, usually a rather dense clerical assistant, would know his master's habits and forward the key to a private study, a portable, self-contained unit.
11. To let the musicians relax, a discreet guide would lead them to the kitchen where they could enjoy a bacon-and-egg sandwich, some edible cereals with fresh milk from the local dairy or a choice of fruit juices.....
12. Despite this meticulous preparation, something weird happened.
13. When Victor's niece appeared on stage, light shone upon her enormous brooch and bounced back from her throat onto her feet.
14. Her lovely voice captured the audience until the note on the i of Maria got stuck in her throat.
15. At first they thought that it was meant to be funny and burst out laughing until the ambulance came to take her away.

53. THE PETITION

1. While he was still in his youth, Fred Freestyle took part in the yearly auto trials along the winding trail of Fifth Avenue.
2. Cars of every make and model would race back and forth without pause at breath-taking speeds.
3. This year, the event ended with a kind of atomic explosion.
4. The avenue became the scene of an accident in which twenty cars turned into wrecks.
5. Fred's body was covered with wounds; blood was spurting out of every vein in his arms and legs.
6. A paramedic had to wring out one towel while his co-worker used a second one to soak up more blood.
7. Broken ribs were sticking out of his chest.
8. The common belief was that the cement used in pouring the concrete surface was too coarse and not tough enough to withstand the ordeal of overheated tyres.
9. The question, "Who's to blame" remained.
10. People who had always been against the deafening noise were now scared that such a terrible accident might happen again.
11. They were wondering to whom they should send a petition with the request to stop the long established madness.
12. They finally decided to accept the solid advice from the author of an extremely popular magazine for women.
13. He had already won a golden vase with his magazine that had a wide and varied group of readers.
14. He stated that there would be more value in prohibiting the access to the avenue in order to invite a large circus from abroad instead of holding the car trials again.
15. He was convinced that all his readers would sign the petition.
16. The magazine appealed to them because it consisted mainly of pages and pages filled with truly noble looking models with absurd hairstyles as well as with glamorous men who bathed in a bath topped up with salad sauce for the mere sake of showing a proven recipe for people who wanted to live an active life.

54. ALSATIONS

1. Louis the Fourth was the king of a tiny nation surrounded by high mountains.
2. Outside the palace stood a lonely figure, his nephew, son of his brother Louis the Eighth.
3. The boy was employed as a herald to welcome guests that intended visiting his uncle.
4. It was an old custom established by Louis the First.
5. Depending on his mood, the herald would sound some lively tune with a special effect until his throat got sore.
6. Then he informed the guests that they should hasten to the dining room where a detailed menu awaited them.
7. Except for the chest of drawers decorated with a design of French lilies, the king believed that a dining room should be a sober place where people could concentrate on their stomach, not on the furniture.
8. The number of guests never exceeded ninety although the room could seat one hundred. Once upon a time, the king had dreamt that ten seats would be used by the ghosts of deceased ancestors.
9. There was no army. With the growth of the population, the king had demanded that youngsters full of energy should patrol the grounds surrounding the palace under the guidance of a karate expert.
10. Boys who couldn't even do up their shoelaces were exempt from service; excuses were not accepted.
11. The king had a special method to discover their genuine incompetence so cheating was impossible.
12. His memory was beyond belief. He could remember the names of nearly five million inhabitants, the population of Denmark.
13. The existence of a kennel with 100 fearless Alsations made sure that unwanted intruders would be eliminated without any effort.
14. The man who had sold them had said, "Once engaged in an attack they can't be stopped."
15. Since the king believed that the proof in the pudding was, he offered a large sum of money to anyone who could defend himself or herself once crouched under the barbed wire fence.
16. Only one man accepted the offer. He played a kind of enchanting tune on a tin whistle. Within seconds, the dogs licked him to death.....so to speak!

55. HIS HAND WAS STILL WRITING

1. John Chemist was a rather unusual citizen.
2. Since his wealth was more impressive than his health, he decided to abandon the so-called ratrace.
3. Especially since he could hardly breathe during the hot season.
4. The source of his income was unknown. Most people believed that he smuggled drugs while a few remarked about the warmth of his friendship.
5. One day, he put all his capital in his wallet and left for Central Station to catch a train to Dover.
6. An aircraft carrier flew him through the tunnel under the English Channel.
7. In Calais, he chartered a seaworthy vessel that took him to the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.
8. He filled his balloon with LP gas and drifted into the air.
9. A special solar shield supplied the energy to turn the propeller.
10. Sometimes, the propeller refused to turn over but John accepted it as a minor setback.
11. When he flew over a village of cannibals with sticks pierced through their tongue, they attempted to shoot arrows into his balloon because they were obviously hungry.
12. He tried to curb the arrows but failed.
13. However, he saw no reason why he couldn't repair the damage.
14. In the absence of proper material, he covered the holes with bandaids with one hand while grasping a cable with the other.
15. One day, he tried to carve a piece of frozen meat. However, his knife slipped and damaged the solar shield; he drifted for days.
16. His food had run out so he lost 50 kg in 5 days.
17. Although he regretted having someone come to his rescue, he sent up all his flares because he suffered from dizziness and practically dehydrated in the harsh heat.
18. His life hung in the balance. He became anxious. He certainly was not in the busiest part of the ocean; traffic was sparse, ships seldom came his way.
19. Even when he got only a slight headache, he was certain that he wasn't able to achieve his goal of meeting angels.

55. HIS HAND WAS STILL WRITING (continued)

20. So he got settled in his basket as comfortable as possible and started writing an article for a well-known newspaper.
21. He reckoned that they would approve of it because he was careful enough to only select the best impressions he could still vividly recall.
22. When rescuers finally discovered his balloon on a lonely atoll, John himself had disintegrated but his leathery hand was still writing.

56. TEACHER-FREE DAYS

1. Glenbrook Grammar School was situated on a high rock between two deep gullies, so students came by helicopter.
2. A group of students that included both girls and boys wanted to neither further their education nor being examined any longer.
3. The headmaster declared his concern and compared the results of those that stayed and those that left prematurely.
4. Neither girls nor boys took any notice. The group was determined to play music in all earnest knowing full well that the easiest way out would always lead to problems.
5. They were hopeful to improve and make their fortune by imitating the style of famous orchestras.
6. As soon as the mother of one of the students heard of their plans, she mentioned it to a wealthy connection of hers.
7. He owned a WW II Liberty ship moored in one of the many harbours in the U.K. (United Kingdom).
8. He explained that, during the war, Captain Currant who was in command made history to the delight of the entire crew.
9. By hastily changing the pattern of the ship's course, he prevented her from being destroyed by a destroyer.....
10. Her jealous husband, a sewing machine salesman, tried to stop her from inspecting the ship.
11. Unfortunately, he fell overboard, was dragged away by a strong current and drowned.
12. The group first practised as a mere pastime in the comfort of the enclosed, nicely furnished library.
13. They mainly played examples of well-known music.
14. Eventually, the mother prepared private concerts against payment of \$200 per person.
15. Since the audience consisted of well-to-do people, the glitter of the dressed-up ladies turned the concerts into a fashion show as well.
16. Since all other students of the Glenbrook Grammar School joined the initial group, the headmaster had no choice but to put the school up for sale.

57. HE WHO LAUGHS FIRST- LAUGHS LAST

1. Four student thieves of unknown age but of violent nature pretended that they were visitors interested in the display homes of a new subdivision.
2. Ten pretended that they were removalists.
3. They had repaired a stolen carriage normally used for carrying clothing, mainly school uniforms in addition to boxes of envelopes for stationers.
4. Since the carriage had been in an accident, a panelbeater had done the necessary repairs.
5. All fourteen entered one of the display homes because they had their eye on an enormous, mouse-coloured, antique cupboard decorated with hard to describe patterns.
6. When they wriggled it into the carriage, they scraped the sides and almost chopped off the legs because it was a tight squeeze.
7. After a series of farewells and good-byes to the special security guards, they stopped at a service station to buy drinks.
8. Then they continued their trip along Boundary Road that separated two shires and meandered through various valleys.
9. They were grateful that it was a glorious day; usually at this time of the year, it would be pouring with rain.
10. The sun was shining so the precious contents of the carriage didn't get wet.
11. This was their first practical exercise so they considered themselves pretty good, especially without the support of a master burglar because nobody had applied for the job.
12. As they approached the wharf where they would unload the cupboard, victory seemed only seconds away.
13. However, the funniest moment of their adventure occurred when all the security guards of the new subdivision awaited them.
14. The youngsters commenced to tremble when they saw their plans being scrapped.

58. NO CORPORAL PUNISHMENT BUT.....

1. Peter Porridge was an ordinary, punctual Primary School teacher.
2. The gentleman had held that position for the past forty years.
3. He had leased a brand new car but he was not a good motorist.
4. One day, he merged in the wrong direction because the road was slippery, and he was hurrying too much.
5. He hit a girl skipping on the footpath and then collided with large obstacles piled up near the kerb.
6. Since he didn't wear a seatbelt to restrain himself, he dislocated his shoulder.
7. The obstacles belonging to a primary producer consisted of material used to irrigate his estate.
8. Although Peter hadn't been convicted previously, justice had to be done.
9. Instead of enjoying a week's holiday, he became a prisoner in The Empire, an ancient prison on a large property.
10. The judge called him a man ignorant of the Road Rules.
11. Peter listened angrily but was delighted to hear that the judge had no objection when he asked if he was allowed to bring some personal belongings as well as his nineteen obedient cats that purred him to sleep.
12. The cats were all labelled because Peter could never remember their names.
13. During this unforeseen interval, the headmaster employed Peter's relative, a man who had invented a new magazine that had to be read upside down.
14. The importance of this invention was still subject to debate before it would be published.
15. During the relative's temporary contract, the students enjoyed themselves immensely doing noughts and crosses, building sandcastles as well as playing hide and seek.
16. Consequently, their progress had come to a standstill!
17. Their parents were of course offended but had to admit that this weird procedure was at least preferable to the use of the ancient scourge.

59. TOO MUCH CHOCOLATE.

1. Company director Bill Broadcast looked like Father Christmas because of his baggy trousers.
2. He was usually referred to as Mr Umbrella because he always carried one, rain or shine.
3. These trousers contained a large supply of his favourite chocolate; without wrapping paper because that would have been too inconvenient.
4. He spent half his salary on chocolate despite the fact that it made him belch.
5. For his amusement he entertained himself in the splendid but dangerous surf outside Pearl Harbour, about 20 km from the expressway.
6. He had the advantage of an athletic body. Its strength was able to speedily cope with any difficulty even if it turned into an absurdly elaborate struggle.
7. He managed a huge furniture warehouse.
8. If members of organised crime were to trespass, they would be severely injured by 20 Alsations that couldn't be stopped once they were engaged in an attack.
9. Instead of paying attention to their complaints, Bill would speedily issue summons in order to have the unfortunate trespassers imprisoned at the earliest available time.....
10. In yesterday's issue of the Daily Telegraph, a statement appeared regarding his disappearance.
11. The general belief was that he might have stumbled upon a gang's headquarters and was told to either pay a large amount of money or else was threatened to be eliminated.
12. The decision was made to search the surroundings of the warehouse as well as those of Pearl Harbour.
13. The police discussed whether they should accept the help of volunteers; there were a great number of people who wanted to assist.
14. When they finally discovered him in the attic of the warehouse, they found that he had died of an overdose of chocolate.

60. DESPERATE MEASURES.

1. Herman Handkerchief, the mayor of a remote fishing village, was an interesting man with a difference.
2. He lived in a WWII Victory ship berthed in the local harbour.
3. Since he was as lean as a sardine, he slept in the narrow, lower berth of a 4-berth sailer's cabin.
4. As an exercise in self punishment, it was sparsely lit by kerosene lamps; it only contained a wooden kitchen chair and a desk.
5. It was therefore understandable that his wife had left him, and that he had to do the work of two adults.
6. Herman held a tight rein on his community and excelled in seizing the opportunity to keep the simple souls united.
7. Especially by letting them sing one of his patriotic compositions based on a limerick of which two sets of lines rhyme together.
8. Most interviews were by appointment but when a special issue was at stake, he urged people to form a queue on the slippery gangway.
9. Since the knowledge of the English language was often very limited, Herman used a dictionary to keep conversation going.
10. Sometimes, his common sense was temporarily on hold when he had to swiftly attend to a meeting in the capital city.
11. The noise of his pre-war motor cycle often caused the excitement of a whole herd of cattle grazing along the way.
12. Unfortunately, once in a while, the existing hinges on the paddock gates would even collapse causing all sorts of trouble.
13. Fortunately, the mayor was always sincerely sorry and kept the friendship with the farmers going by buying their milk.
14. That arrangement was of course made afterwards because he had been too much in a hurry to dismount when it happened.
15. At one time, all inhabitants were frightened that the building site intended for a new school would be used to build a factory for a company that manufactured and hired caterpillars (literally: hairy cats) of enormous measurements and thus appearance.

60. DESPERATE MEASURES(continued).

16. If successful, parents wouldn't be able to enrol their children.
17. To alter the situation, they wanted the mayor to introduce a law against false advertising and fraud.
18. To prove it, they intended buying the only factory in the world that supplied the fuel gauges for the caterpillars.
19. By omitting to insert one small important part, the machines wouldn't be faultless any longer as advertised.

NOTE:The following lessons contain only 25 new words. They appear either in short episodes or in a single paragraph.

LESSON 61.

1. The female editor of the Daily Mirror walks with a most unusual rhythm; one could almost call it a frivolous gallop.
2. She used to be a chorus girl in famous musicals.
3. The title of her column reflects her sense of humour.
-
4. All members of the Storemen's Union organised a special meeting regarding the handling of inflammable liquids.
5. They put forward a motion with regards to the enormous amount of petrol the president had stored in his garage.
6. Drums were stacked ten high and occupied the entire width.
7. The president was compelled to drastically reduce the number.
8. It must be said to his credit that he didn't oppose the motion.
9. To everybody's relief, he assured the members that he would abide by their wishes.
10. In actual fact, he would even be prepared to sell his yacht if they desired.
-
11. After a brilliant career, a rugby league player with strong muscles was recently arrested for committing a serious offence.
12. He almost committed a murder when he attacked the curator of a museum with an ancient blunt sword that he had taken out of its display case.
13. The judge pronounced his verdict with a stony face.
14. The player's face was fierce when he was found guilty of attempted manslaughter.
15. There was a murmur in court when he was obliged to accept a period of 20 years in jail and hard labour.
16. He remarked, "Thank you Your Honour!", which was a weird thing to do.
17. Unfortunately, it didn't yield him the hoped-for shorter term in prison.
18. Since his lawyer didn't pursue the case any further, the verdict stood.

LESSON 62.

1. The college consisted of an ancient, century-old building wholly owned by a company managed by a group of worthy directors that had combined forces.
2. During severe winters, black smoke would come out of the many chimneys and slowly rise into the otherwise clean air.
3. Many students started to produce a disgusting cough that eventually developed into a contagious disease that affected their lungs.
4. It became evident that a new kind of heating system had to be installed.
-
5. Since the average rainfall in the district had been extremely low, the resulting drought required an effective irrigation scheme to lift the spirits of the farmers and to secure their standard of living.
-
6. A serial murderer collided with an elastic bands salesman. Their cars were squashed considerably.
7. Although the criminal muttered an apology, he was obviously not allowed to leave the scene of the accident.
8. While an overweight tourist sat down on top of a high rock to satisfy his hunger with the aid of a junkfood sausage laden with barbecue sauce, he observed the natural scenery below him.
9. It was much like a silent theatre of various types of vegetation with here and there a patch of Australian flannelflowers.
10. He was a retired plumber enjoying his freedom again.
11. He had been a patient in a general public hospital. He didn't die but nearly went down the drain.
12. A variety of specialists had expressed their learned opinions but only one of them had been game enough to perform a rather risky operation.
13. The plumber had also been an active referee but his tobacco addiction had gradually succeeded in damaging both lungs although they looked all right on the surface.
14. When tidying up after the operation, the nurse suggested that he had better ask for a receipt in order to get a partial refund from Medicare. He told her that he wasn't a private patient and that pensioners only had to sign a form.

LESSON 63.

1. A Council inspector lost the exhaust pipe of his private car.
2. Since he was extremely poor as a result of his gambling habits, he could not afford the expense of a new one because it is very expensive.
3. So he used his son's bicycle to move about. It was a rather awkward situation because the farthest he had ever travelled on it was to the local supermarket.
4. One day, he passed a building that had been condemned despite its attractive features.
5. It was now supposedly vacant. It had been a biscuit factory, a storeroom for vacuumcleaners, pyjamas as well for as a variety of other cargoes.
6. Somehow, the inspector became curious; after all, it was his job to satisfy his curiosity, so for the benefit of his doubt, he descended from his son's bicycle and proceeded towards the door.
7. He hesitated a few seconds before opening the unlocked door.
8. The place was packed from floor to ceiling with weapons stolen from the Defence Force.
-
9. The immense volume of traffic that travelled along the capital city section of Kookaburra Road and then descended down the popular harbour tunnel became a serious threat to the safety of its users.
10. The quality of the air polluted by exhaust fumes turned one's stomach.
11. The local Council could no longer justify to ignore an imminent tragedy.
12. During an emergency meeting, councillors proposed unanimously instant closure of the road.
13. Motorists felt deceived and wanted to satisfy their curiosity why this was the twelfth time a similar action was decided upon but abandoned afterwards. To them it was a complete mystery.
14. Copying such a mysterious decision again and again would eventually create a total chaos, perhaps even the result of corruption because money is the root of all evil.
15. They inquired why a modern society with its advanced science should depend on people with the primitive brain of a turkey!

LESSON 64.

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1. When thoroughly studying the ridiculous physical features of sergeant Anteater, which was in itself a difficult procedure susceptible to losing any sympathy with the man, one had to come to the terrible conclusion that he obviously didn't practise what the doctor preached.
 2. In order to preserve his enormous belly, he most probably purchased a large quantity of junk food for his evening meal because eating was his religion, a valuable and precious treasure.
 3. The Take-Away shop-the hamburgers, fish and chips as well as fatty sausages, not the shop itself!-was his universe although a relation of his had sent him a telegram suggesting that he should eat more home-grown tomatoes.
 4. Since the man was a Taxation Commissioner, Anteater didn't dare to squabble.
 -
 5. Leo Jeopardy had been the porter of the original Casualty Department when its location was still in a dead-end street that ran parallel to the main road.
 6. At school, he had been no more than a human ornament in the classroom.
 7. His laziness was almost humorous. He was a fierce opponent of homework; official business was a nuisance to him.
 8. That hatred increased when he misspelt his name on numerous occasions.
 9. Since it irritated as well as embarrassed him, he began to indicate his name with initials only.
 10. Although he pleaded innocent, the teacher thought that he also misspelt medicine, kerosene, audience and majority on purpose.

LESSON 65.

1. To the amazement of the Aviation Authority, a collision between an aeroplane and an empty school bus took place on the aerodrome of Kangaroo Valley.
2. The aeroplane was towed to a special allotment in order to be fumigated because the Authority was worrying that it had been contaminated.
3. A constable, a rather pompous character, had immediately called an ambulance.
4. Although the condition of the bus driver and her companion was satisfactory, they were quite willing to co-operate because they liked the sound of the sirens.
5. They were conscious of the fact that it would be a wasteful exercise but when the constable told them to get in, they nodded in agreement.
6. According to a community nurse who was sitting on her verandah while the incident occurred, it had been the result of a misunderstanding between the pilot and the driver.
7. It was quite a coincidence that she was just beginning to consult her catalogue to find a book on human behavior problems.
8. She told the Authority to form a special committee that would investigate the circumstances of the unfortunate accident.
-
9. The Minister for Corrective Services was a peculiar fellow.
10. Apart from his day to day duties, he was a champion heavy weight boxer in his spare time, a quality that impressed even the criminals that were locked up for life.
11. During a fight, he was cautious but vicious.
12. He became a familiar person on TV because of his frequent appearances, at least every second calendar month.
13. Inmates who witnessed a fight were astonished how his accurate punches caused the collapse of his opponents.
14. Since the fight always ended in a definite knock-out, there never was an argument. The Minister was always the happiest man when the referee announced his verdict.
15. The strenuous activity was always followed by a healthy appetite. Since it met with the approval of his wife who, by contrast, was a rather delicate creature, the Minister didn't have to persuade her to drive his expensive vehicle to one of the fancy restaurants at Circular Quay, almost under the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge.

LESSON 66

1. Benjamin Burglar was an excellent insurance salesman. He worked long hours, slept little. However, when he had the flu-short for influenza-he saw the necessity to stay at home.
2. Then he felt miserable, especially during the time he was working on the expansion of the firm's activities as well as on a permanent extension to his office.
3. He was someone with a sound judgment and preferred to persevere with his plans without being interrupted by anything.
4. Benjamin had established himself as someone who could positively influence the operation of the company.
5. His colleagues were fascinated by his almost invisible command.
6. He was not interested in contemporary political issues; he rather studied foreign languages because they were practical and necessary to communicate with foreigners who hardly spoke English.
7. His mind worked like the smoothly running machinery of a luxury cruise ship.
-
8. An independent organisation – a member of the Fahrenheit Association-manufactured instruments that provided information regarding the temperature of extraterrestrial bodies.
9. Their representative Kelvin Celsius was an affectionate but somewhat mischievous fellow.
10. His determination enabled him to use every opportunity to stave off any competition; sometimes, it would even lead to their destruction.
11. He was responsible for the preparation and the arrangements of the various flight connections because he himself was a famous astronaut.
12. Unfortunately, Kelvin was handicapped by an extravagant lifestyle.
13. While in outer space, his wife suffered from extreme loneliness because she always felt very lonely in her simple accommodation without electricity. The only light in her life came from an old fashioned kerosene lamp when it was lit.
14. On the day of their fortieth wedding anniversary, she finally left him.

LESSON 67.

1. The president of the Simpson Desert Liberal Party, with the assistance of his artificial looking, expressionless secretary for whom he felt no attraction whatsoever, had just put their signatures on an important document.
2. It contained a convenient program that would be appreciated and recognised as a revolution in terms of principles regarding travellers' confidence as well as satisfy their own conscience.
3. It would also be rather convenient for them because they would have the privilege of receiving a 10% commission from the insurance company recommended by the president himself.
4. The principal regulation related to situations that affected visibility during arrivals and departures; a comparison between risk factors involving aeroplanes propelled by ordinary propellers or jet engines came second.

-
5. Peter Pesticide, the president of the Stationery Foundation, accompanied by a slim secretary, stopped his car outside a telephone box.
 6. As soon as it was stationary, he jumped out with an enthusiastic expression on his face.
 7. He was going to ring an influential member of Parliament.
 8. He wanted the government of Rottnest Island to curb the mosquito population that had noticeably increased since the shipwreck of the Batavia.
 9. It would eventually be sufficiently large to form an unfavorable condition for motorists, especially at night.
 10. As a reference to his experienced observations abroad, experiments there had clearly illustrated that it was then hardly manageable any longer.
 11. During their discussion, the parliamentarian and the president quarreled profusely so in the end they both hung up!

LESSON 68.

To the Ombudsman of Possum City
Distinguished Sir,

Frillneck Creek
1 April 2009

RE: A slanderous publication

1. I hereby present the following information for your unbiased consideration.
2. One month before the November session of the Senate, I became the victim of slander which I believe is clearly demonstrated in the enclosed publication entitled, "For whom not to vote".
3. An estimated 10 000 copies were distributed before the election.
4. Upon examination, it will no doubt become evident that it would be a mistake to ignore its implication.
5. Upon application, I will provide any further material you may need to investigate the circumstances under which the detrimental remarks were made.
6. During the last conference held in the National Convention Centre, I made new provisions for the improvement of public welfare; it was obviously of a financial disadvantage to my opponents.
7. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully Yours.
Fred Flintstone.

BUDAPEST

LESSON 69.

1. It was getting late so it was beginning to get dark.
 2. Although Oliver Ostrich was generally accustomed to his surroundings when the sun disappeared below the horizon, he recognised immediately that, on this occasion, something was totally different from preceding circumstances.
 3. He ascended a kind of knoll in the middle of his paddock and watched the biggest and most beautiful herd of Friesian cows in the district.
 4. Visitors were always cordially invited to listen to his lectures if they alleged to be interested.
 5. During an agreeable preliminary address, usually after a 4-course meal and dessert, he would tell them how he came to Australia during the hottest time of the year, never forgetting to mention the fact how disappointed he was to find that other dairy farmers became jealous of his successes.
 6. It took him a long time to get used to the changeable nature of people.
 7. A month before his marriage to Olive, one of Oliver's cows had so far produced 100 000 litres of full cream milk.
 8. During the celebrations at the milk factory, Oliver was given a silver trophy in the form of a miniature cow.
-
1. On a particularly fine day in spring, an important foreign politician decided to have a holiday in Australia with his wife Fatima.
 2. Presently in the plane, he fell asleep and dreamt a blissful dream in which Fatima became a beautiful fairy with a magic wand.
 3. Once they had settled themselves near a private creek opposite their 5-star hotel, Fatima wanted to go for a swim because she was a skillful swimmer.
 4. After swimming back and forth for about five hours, she climbed onto a movable raft and began stretching her tired limbs.
 5. Suddenly it occurred to Hassan that huge, cauliflower-shaped clouds appeared on the horizon.
 6. Since he remembered the perils in connection with lightning, he told Fatima to quickly swim ashore.
 7. He was surprised to hear her produce a fiery protest; after all, she was a fairy and thus immune to danger.
 8. While they were still quarrelling, she was hit by lightning, fell off the raft and drowned.

LESSON 69. (continued)

9. Hassan buried her beneath a gnarled olive tree.
10. Suddenly, he woke with a start when he saw the image of a Customs Officer. However, he was mistaken because the man standing in front of him was real and so were the handcuffs.
11. The temptation to become a drug trafficker had been too great.

LESSON 70: One Hundred Demons; words frequently misspelt

By using Attention Directors, Association or mnemonics, they can be easily memorised. Seeing better has to be practised!

-
1. CH: Duchess Such and Such doesn't earn very much (Spanish mucho)
The CH relates to K: Duke, zulk (Dutch)
 3. Which witch ate my sandwich? The one from Ipswich or the one from Greenwich?
 4. Know-Knowledge: **now** I **know**! K for Ken
 6. I'm tired of having flat tyres (radial or ply).
 8. **o**-one-none-no **one**-two**o**-twelve-twenty-twice.
 10. Oh **dear**, I can't **hear**; I must be **deaf** in both **ears**.
Thea **heard** the herd of cows moo (homophones=same sound)
 12. The **bus** driver is **busy**; that's his **business** more or less.
"Drop the y and put an I ":busy-business, marry-marriage, etc.
 14. She has lived here **for** **forty** years.
 16. **who** saw the **whole** game? A **whole** or two **halves**.
 18. FEBRUARY: 2nd month, 8 letters, 28 days (usually).
Some people don't pronounce the R, hence the wrong spelling.
 20. FRIEND:(Dutch vriend). **I** have a **friend**; She ran across the **cricket** **field** to meet the **priest**.
 22. one MAN more MEN
One **W**OMAN (relate **womb**) **than** WOMEN
 24. The **Earl** got up **early** to buy **pearls** for his **Early** bird.
 26. GU-:The U is used to indicate that the G is as the one in GO.
guest, guide, guerilla, guess, guard, guarantee, guardian, guilt.
 28. OUR: **our** fav**our**ite flav**our** and col**our**.
 30. Any eggs left? Not many! (Dutch connection).
 32. our trip took exactly one **hour** (**h** for **h**ands).

LESSON 71: One Hundred Demons (Cont.)

1. If **you would** and you **could**, you **should**.
3. My chickens have started to **lay** eggs; so far they've **laid** 6.
(drop the y and put an i)
5. **Since** the **prince** and the **princess** didn't like the sour **quince**, they **wined** and then **rinsed** their mouth.
6. I say, he says, she says, it says (sez)!
7. Two boys climbed onto a **buoy** in the river.
9. My horse has a **hoarse throat**. Identify the silent E:
10. I **knew** he bought a **new** bike.
12. Can't=cannot. Don't=do not, shan't=shall not
14. Both **men** and **women wear earrings**, Where did you hear that?
16. I mean-I meant, I leap-I leapt, I dream-I dreamt,
18. **By** the way, did you **buy** a ticket before you said **goodbye**?
Relate: **buy** & **purse**, **reimburse**, **burse**.
20. "EAT-words": **bread**, **breakfast**, **cereals**, **beans**, **peas**, **peaches**,
meat, **veal**, **steak**, **yeast**, etc.
22. Hearing the muttering A: **grammar**-**grammatical**.
24. **Once** a **month** on a **Monday**, my **mother** and another **mother** go to
market to set up a stall among **other fishmongers**.
26. One L: always, almost, also. But: all right (two words)
28. They **razed** the **raised** parts of the field.
30. **Builders** of the **builders'** **guild** **built** houses and charged **guilders**.
32. Don't lift that heavy dough **trough** **through** this narrow passage while
you have such a bad **cough** (Dutch connection).
34. **Wednesday** named after the Nordic god **Woden** or **Wodan**.
36. Come-coming; drop the e and put an i.
38. One-**once**, two-**twice**, mouse-**mice**, louse-**lice**.
40. We **wrote** a poem and learnt it by **rote**.
42. Can **you count** how many **countries** there are in Africa?
44. Don't **tear** your new **swearer**; you'll must **wear** it for the next 5 **years**.

72. HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1. One sunny day in autumn, Captain Angel woke up early but he allowed himself to stay in bed because it happened to be his birthday.
2. Instead of helping his son with Maths, he rather felt like organising a day full of adventure.
3. The boy was hopeless as far as addition was concerned; his answers were always incorrect.
4. After breakfast, Captain Angel hopped on his bike and took off.
5. He carefully rode across the local wooden bridge that had been built almost 200 years earlier; it was likely to break into two pieces at any moment.
6. However, that didn't happen. Instead, a heavy bough that grew at a strange angle out of the huge tree that stood next to the bridge broke off and hit him.
7. The Captain lost his balance and landed on the bottom of the creek amongst water plants and beautiful but voracious fish.
8. He had already accepted that fact that he might be eaten alive.
9. Although it didn't happen, he never was the same again.
10. Instead of celebrating his birthday in the sunshine, he went back to bed with a headache.

73. A FRAUDULENT COWARD

1. Despite the criticism of decent and courageous cyclists, the local Council of Mount Curiosity refused to renew a contract to repair damaged bicycle paths.
2. Chris Currant, the current mayor and manager of a large dairy (diary=dagboek) refused to meet the newly formed committee that represented the cyclists.
3. His cowardice even prevented him from having the courtesy to respond to their courteous correspondence.
4. Any attempt to communicate was ignored so that even a cultivated conversation during a debate was thus instantly blocked.
5. Cecil Cylinder who was running a Current Affairs program made a crucial discovery.
6. He had found out that Chris Currant had deceived the citizens for years, and that the Council was heavily in debt.
7. When the Police decided to arrest him, the coward was hiding in one of the many corridors behind a huge Friesian bull.

74. SWINE FLU (inFLUenza)

1. In the course of the Christmas celebrations, Doctor Daniel Division, Chief of the medical centre not far from The Great Dividing Range-a series of mountain ranges and plateaus roughly parallel to the East coast of Australia-was carrying his cousin's daughter into a waiting ambulance.
2. She was coming down –as people would say- with the flu.
3. However, not the common one but the swine flu because Mother Nature can be cruel.
4. She obviously hadn't asked for it because who would?
5. Since this type of flu is very contagious, she had most probably caught it when she was a spectator amongst a crowd of 100 000 people watching the final between Manchester United and Barcelona in Rome.
6. Her colour was like that of the statue of a Roman goddess.
7. The sound of her cough seemed to echo from the depth of her infected lungs.
8. She was almost certain to die.
9. Her condition was on the edge between life and death.

75. CONCESSION

1. Compared to other young students, Colin Column was different; he seemed to belong to a more classical civilisation than to the modern one.
2. While others favoured comedy shows, Colin would go to concerts given by the local symphony orchestra.
3. He left college with very good marks for mathematics which earned him exuberant congratulations from his parents, aunts, uncles and friends.
4. Since he was a law-abiding citizen with plenty of confidence, he wanted to become a constable.
5. Unfortunately, he met with quite some competition.
6. Besides, the Chief of Police was concerned that his fragile constitution might cause him to collapse while on duty.
7. Owing to the climate change, Colin continually coughed and sneezed; instead of handkerchiefs he used his mother's tablecloths.
8. He had to make a concession and became a conscientious clerk doing clerical work for a commercial construction firm.

76. FRUITFLIES

1. My favourite friend is a Geography teacher; he teaches fourth class, fifth class and eighth class. His wife teaches History.
2. Zebedeus is rather unique as well as famous. His name features in most encyclopedias.
3. He breeds a very special type of fruit fly; its size is almost equal to that of a tortoise.
4. Every year, thousands of people from all over the world come to see the flies.
5. He employs a special guide to accompany them; usually forty at any one time.
6. A special procedure has to be followed because Zebedeus doesn't want any of his flies to escape.
7. That's understandable because that one fly would instantly ruin a whole orchard in five seconds flat.
8. At the entrance to the cages, visitors hop onto a long golf buggy. Each person has to wear a seat belt during the whole tour.
9. Then without any further ado, the guide takes off.
10. The engine of the buggy can hardly be heard. It is to stop the flies getting frightened or even die of shock, I guess.
11. There's enough to see for at least five hours.

77. SNAILS, GRASSHOPPERS and FRUITFLIES

1. A lonely figure by the name of Damien Dwarf descended the high mountain.
2. It dominated the district consisting of a large valley and several lakes one of which was called Lake Disappointment.
3. Its water was distributed over the many fertile pastures.
4. Years ago, Damien's son had suddenly disappeared. Damien always suspected that the young man had drowned in the lake.
5. Time and time again he would sit under the gnarled tree next to it.
6. Apart from his son's tragedy, Damien himself had met with misery.
7. When he was a young man himself, he had apparently taken part in a series of discussions on different issues and disciplines.
8. According to witnesses, another fellow who had also taken part in the discussions had been dissatisfied with Damien's viewpoints and had challenged him to settle their differences by way of a duel, a rather ancient and futile activity.
9. However, Damien had no choice. His opponent was not only double his size but also a breeder of draught horses and a teacher of the martial arts. Damien had no chance from the very outset.
10. He had great difficulty staying alive especially because of his dependence on medication needed to stave off a mysterious disease.
11. His digestive system didn't function properly; his food was simply indigestible.
12. Doctors had expressed great doubts as to whether the magic cure could be found.
13. Since his friends had intervened, he had survived.
14. During the rest of his life, he lived in disguise as a hermit on top of the mountain. He had even dyed his hair!
15. He lived on snails, grasshoppers and fruit flies; it was the only food that his stomach didn't reject.

78. EGGS

1. My nephew teaches Mathematics; his wife teaches History.
2. My niece does needlework and married a kitchen hand who works in a large restaurant at the nearby beach resort.
3. They've only been married for two months and are now my nephew's neighbours.
4. My nephew is the son of my sister; my niece is the daughter of my brother.

5. During the summer months, Dutch beach resorts are known to be the resting place for thousands of bodies-dressed or undressed -with one inch of sand between them.
6. Their entire lengths are like a multicoloured smorgasbord of human flesh and bikinis.
7. It's dangerous to let children roam around on their own because parents would lose them in no time.
8. It leads to unforgettable scenes.
9. So instead of spending their holiday locally, the two couples loved to hire a bungalow on one of the hundreds of Greek islands.
10. Unfortunately, they couldn't afford to pay for such an expensive holiday.
11. However, something strange happened; it was a bit like the goose that laid golden eggs.
12. Suddenly, my nephew's chickens began to lay 10 eggs each a day!

13. After two months, they had laid two thousand eggs.
14. They yielded enough money to pay for the holiday!
15. The two families took off immediately. Since they didn't take any luggage, there was nothing to declare when they went through Customs at the airport of Athens.

79. RUTHLESS RULERS

1. Claims of countries that they have adopted the principle of a democracy can be quite deceptive to an amazing degree.
2. Some of their rulers have developed a strong desire to satisfy their destructive ego.
3. They determine the fate of their subjects who often live in despair, desperate to survive in deserted areas.
4. Their plight is hard to describe; their delicate health often means a premature death.
5. Since many hands make light work, they multiply like mice, because to them life is a struggle to stay alive.
6. Their daily ration doesn't include a finger licking desert served in a golden dish.
7. To decrease the possibility of a revolt, the delivery of illegal weapons-with or without slight defects – seems to be as easy as milking a cow.
8. Soldiers are then dispatched to destroy their own people according to a definite procedure.
9. Miles away from this ruthless destruction, the dictator himself might be engaged in a different activity.
10. After one year it is obviously necessary to redecorate his headquarters using intricate designs and expensive diamonds extracted from his private mine.
11. One often wonders how these ogres manage to stay in power; a sniper could have eliminated them as easy as blowing a whistle.

80. A SHARP TONGUE

1. Every first week in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December, all women of the village go to market.
2. Always on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday to buy what they need.
3. They usually stay until it gets dark which means towards 9 o'clock in summer, towards 5 o'clock in autumn and winter and frequently till 7 o'clock in spring.
4. None of the women are married so there are no angry husbands or crying children.
5. Only one woman stays home because she sends her male servant whose intelligence is truly negligible.
6. Since Mary is not good at writing, and Joseph can't read, you won't believe how difficult it is to get what she wants.
7. If she **could** go herself she **would** and **should** of course.
8. However, she gets already weary after doing 10 steps because her weight is equivalent to her wealth.
9. She used to be a sergeant major in the army and insists on still wearing her uniform.
10. Her tongue is still as sharp as a razor blade.

81. THE FUTILE ENDEAVOURS OF CHALLENGING DANGER

1. Most executives faithfully ruin their eyes by staring continuously at computers or laptops.
2. However, some more fiery ones favour breath-taking excursions into the unknown in order to exhibit their superiority.
3. Apart from that, there is simply no explanation for the existence of these dangerous exploits, it seems to have just become the fashion; the more outrageous, the better.
4. Very often, the expensive gear that features in glossy advertisements triggers off the desire to participate.
5. It makes people feel invincible. Besides, a fertile mind is also causing them to tackle extraordinary and exceptional endeavours.
6. The experience of danger, excitement and extreme risky ventures seems to be preferable to the familiar.
7. The fact that one's life could be extinguished in a fatal accident caused by a faulty component of the outfit despite a warranty issued by the manufacturer is apparently ignored.
8. Enclosed in their fancy outfit they try to conquer an unknown enemy which might well be the idiot himself!

82. SCIENCE FICTION

1. It was a quiet, peaceful day.
2. The sun was shining on the small parcel of land that had an old shack on it.
3. Although it was almost falling apart, it was still in one piece.
4. Squatters who used to steal cattle from farms in the neighbourhood had used it as their headquarters where they would plan their nightly raids.
5. One day, thirteen 18-year old boys were sitting in front of it having breakfast which consisted of watery porridge and honey.
6. Since their speech was quite rough and their raised voices could be heard a mile away, I'm sure they didn't pay any attention to the schoolchildren who came by on their fancy bicycles as quickly as they could.
7. Perhaps the boys really wanted to show off their imagined superiority.
8. I suppose that they wouldn't speak the way they did when applying for a job.
9. Anyway, after breakfast, they were ready to go swimming in the nearby creek that was infested with 20-metre long crocodiles.
10. The boys were in search for one that could be tamed and used in a circus act.

83. ELASTIC BANDS

1. Egbert Elastic, an engineer working for the Electricity Commission, was known for his efficiency, his enthusiasm and especially his energy.
2. I'm not exaggerating when I state that, during an emergency operation, he wouldn't see his bed for a whole week!
3. The effect of his darting figure behind the blazing light of his torch that pierced through the misty darkness was quite eerie.
4. His emphasis was on essentials; the other staff looked after equipment, enrolled new apprentices, ordered dynamite to uproot trees that interfered with the power lines, or simply wrote addresses on envelopes.
5. After Egbert had been with the Commission for about 30 years, he wanted to become Prime Minister.
6. Unfortunately, he was defeated even before the election took place; colleagues were afraid that he would be too radical.
7. He learnt to speak Spanish within 3 months and emigrated to Ecuador, a country in South America.
8. Eventually, he established himself as a manufacturer of elastic bands near the equator.

84. AN ABBREVIATED ACCOUNT

1. Thousands of years ago, some disobedient young aborigines had been abandoned by their elders and put on Academic Island, 100 miles off the coast of Australia.
2. Owing to the abundance of wildlife, they adjusted themselves to their new surroundings and soon got accustomed to the fact that life was not meant to be easy.
3. They accomplished a great deal in a very short time.
4. They built a simple accommodation for the whole group.
5. Since there were no streets, their address was very simple: Aborigines, Academic Island.
6. Abundant rainfall was absorbed by the fertile soil instead of running off into the ocean.
7. The discovery of primitive agriculture was quite an achievement.
8. Access to the island was almost impossible, hence the absence of unwanted intruders.
9. The admission fee was so high that nobody could afford to become part of the new tribe.
10. Outsiders engaged in suspicious activities met with mysterious accidents.
11. Accompanied by their home-made spears, the tribe acquired an acute ability to accumulate more than enough food to survive.
12. It has to be acknowledged that their accurate way of throwing these weapons was the actual reason why they survived their initial ordeal.

85. WEALTHY BUT NOT MERRY

1. Herman Hobby was the owner of a large gymnasium.
2. He married Helen Hoarse, a healthy looking woman who had appeared as the heroine in one of the Bollywood movies.
3. She became a hospitable beauty who attracted many new customers.
4. Although equipment is guaranteed not to collapse, one of the trampolines did.
5. Harry Handkerchief – one of Herman's guests – was the hideously overweight honorary secretary of the local Trampoline Association.
6. When he tried to do a high jump, disaster struck.
7. Although Harry didn't bear any grudge against Herman, the local Police didn't hesitate to put Herman in goal for negligence.
8. They were convinced that Herman was guilty; he should have known that an accident had been likely to occur.
9. Herman's bodyguard Henry Horizon was hoping that he could help his master to escape from the dungeon.
10. He wanted to show his gratitude for the many favours he had enjoyed.
11. To him it would simply be an honour to come to the rescue.
12. However, Herman's helicopter ran out of fuel and crashed onto the jail from a great height.
13. Neither Herman nor Henry survived.
14. After the funeral, Herman's heir sold the gym.
15. Although she became quite wealthy, she never turned into a merry widow!

86. THE FIRST DAY IN APRIL

1. On a particular pleasant day in August, a commercial traveller was on his way to a client in order to deliver some woollen garments.
2. When he approached a little wooden bridge over a narrow creek, he was surprised to notice two people quarrelling while they were swimming on the opposite side.
3. It occurred to him, I suppose, that they really might be in danger because it already looked as if their chance of survival became thinner and thinner.
4. He couldn't resist the temptation to come to the rescue.
5. He had always been a good swimmer; he had booked several successes in races and had almost become a world champion in the breast stroke category.
6. So that seemed to be quite a useful asset to have.
7. He safely tackled the slippery embankment but instead of diving in, he stretched out his very long arms to see if he could grab them.
8. However, he lost his balance and mysteriously disappeared in the murky water.
9. When they buried him, his relatives referred his accident to the fact that he was born on April Fool's day!

87. MALE DOMINANCE

1. There are countries where, immediately after marriage, women work all week in the fields.
2. Sometimes even through the hottest part of the day.
3. Consequently, on Wednesday, they are already very tired if not exhausted.
4. They have to keep going though whether they like it or not.
5. Their husbands maintain that they will eventually get used to it.
6. Occasionally, the men might cut wood for the fire, most probably because it's needed to cook their meals.
7. "Because of the wear and tear of their hands, the women won't be able to even write letters which is very sad," wrote a travelling journalist for National Geographic.
8. Their possessions are limited because truly jealous husbands think that they otherwise might adopt airs and graces.

88. THE CAREER OF A GENIUS

1. Governor Flannel flower was the head of the new government.
2. He had been the most important figure in the fight for freedom.
3. Flannel flower had captured the ruthless dictator who had ruled and ruined the country for thirty years.
4. The man's self-imposed grandeur and the glamour of his palace had been in stark contrast to his ugliness.
5. Initially, it had seemed to be almost as difficult a task as obtaining the Golden Fleece.
6. Flannel flower had to gauge the right moment to do it.
7. Knowing that the dictator was a very superstitious man, Flannel flower had disguised himself as an awe-inspiring ghost with a large protruding forehead.
8. The dictator collapsed when Flannel flower appeared in the man's bedroom, so, in the end it had been quite easy to smuggle the villain out of the palace with the aid of the dictator's own guard who had been paid a handsome amount of money.
9. The dictator had then been transported to a lonely atoll in the middle of the ocean.
10. Escape was impossible because 1001 hungry sharks were always swimming around it.
11. After Flannel flower had fulfilled his mission, he was ready to concentrate on his new function.
12. He was a genuine genius. At the age of 18, he had already graduated cum laude at a secret foreign military academy.
13. Upon his return, he had lived in a ramshackle garage to prepare his courageous plan.
14. His people were of course extremely grateful; their generosity had been overwhelming.
15. He received thousands of both simple and expensive gifts. A special freight train was needed to deliver them to the ex-dictator's palace because that had become Government House.
16. The world's most famous producers, actors and actresses were engaged to create an unforgettable movie.

89. THE RISK OF TRESPASSING

1. Some people of leisure climb Sugarloaf Mountain as their favourite pastime.
2. It is an exercise in determination.
3. Only skillful climbers manage to reach the top.
4. Every minute, they have to figure out how to avoid trouble or even peril.
5. A movable rock might jeopardise their welfare or their self-image.
6. Presently, a group of shopkeepers from the Latin Quarter providers of linen and cotton garments-decided to use a different approach.
7. For the purpose of reaching the top quicker, they had to trespass on Crown Land.
8. Unfortunately, being foreigners, they were not aware of the fact that, years before, the army had used it to store unexploded landmines.
9. Although some of the more law-abiding men protested, the others ignored them and went ahead; the protesters sullenly followed.
10. One can imagine the upheaval it produced when one of the mines did explode!
11. All men tumbled down the slope and drowned in the deep lake at the foot of the mountain.
12. Since the villagers had mistaken the explosion for a mysterious occurrence of thunder and lightning, they never went to investigate.
13. Even the fact that the shopkeepers never came back didn't raise the alarm.

90. JUST IN CASE

1. After a careful analysis of the possibilities and the solid advice of a reputable adviser, Albert Aerial took off in his private aeroplane.
2. He was an adventurous adolescent amateur, the son of wealthy parents.
3. Via an advertisement in a science fiction magazine, he had announced that he planned to discover the alternative ways of ancient agriculture, altogether an ambitious project.
4. Since he would have to advance deep into unknown territory, he had with him a large amount of ammunition to defend himself if necessary.
5. Affectionate looking natives might chant aloud their allegiance pretending to agree that it would be all right for Albert to encroach on their territory, but despite the alliance, he could just as easily wind up in their cooking pot.

91. A BUSKER

1. A miserable looking musician was playing his obsolete button accordion opposite the entrance to the Museum Of Fine Arts.
2. His tunes were as monotonous as the row of cars passing by.
3. Occasionally, he played something more bouncy.
4. He was not really a nuisance to anybody because his playing was hardly noticeable due to the noise of the traffic.
5. That was probably why some people dropped a couple of coins in his old hat.
6. The fact that he omitted several notes in a well-known tune proved to be an advantage; people paid him out of pity, not for his expertise.
7. The occurrence of these missing notes happened at least nineteen times per hour, not as a result of negligence but due to his incompetence.
8. Harry Squeezebox as he was called used to have a totally different occupation.
9. In the days that his bulging muscles had been as big as onions, he had been a wrestler.
10. During one fight, a mysterious opponent from the neighbouring mountainous region had seized the opportunity to grab Harry by the neck.
11. Unfortunately, the man's grip was so tight that he broke Harry's neck.
12. In the opinion of the supposedly neutral referee, there had been no malicious intent.
13. After his operation, Harry bought a second-hand squeezebox and took lessons.
14. He practised with the obedience of a soldier, and with a repertoire of about 20 tunes, he decided to become a busker to supplement his meagre invalid pension.

92. DEAD ON TIME (a PUN)

1. Professor Punchbowl was the pleasant principal of a foreign language school.
2. He was a man with set principles and a string of qualifications because it was easy for him to qualify for whatever study he chose to tackle.
3. He pursued the prescribed program.
4. Preliminary lessons always concentrated on pronunciation and punctuation, probably because he was good at it himself.
5. Eventually, he purchased a large property for the purpose of living according to a rather primitive lifestyle.
6. Wildlife was plentiful; the quality as well as the quantity of honey was beyond expectation.
7. His daily activities followed a set procedure.
8. Early every morning before getting dressed and having breakfast, he would roam around the property in his brightly coloured pyjamas the colours of which matched those of the many birds.
9. Since he spent now hours travelling to and fro by car, he decided to buy a helicopter.
10. When its propeller broke off, his life ended with a priest singing psalms while leading the procession consisting of family, friends and students.

93. ALL IS WELL THAT ENDS WELL

1. Peter Pageant became an orphan when he was seventeen.
2. His parents had died in a freak accident.
3. Mr Pageant had been the Chief conductor of a symphony orchestra.
4. Mrs Pageant had been a Member of Parliament (MP).
5. On a particularly fine day in August, the parents had decided to participate in a parachute jumping event.
6. A friend of theirs had just bought a 4-year old second hand car and offered to drive them to the airstrip.
7. Unfortunately, the original owner had not disclosed the fact that the vehicle was not safe to drive although it looked quite new and had been passed as roadworthy.
8. When a pedestrian suddenly crossed the road, the car skidded when the faulty brakes were applied.
9. The car penetrated a shop window and came to a halt in front of the counter.
10. The shopkeeper was paralysed.
11. Both the driver and the parents died in the ordeal.
12. Since Peter was penniless, he received a pension until he could find work to support himself.
13. Luckily, he was an optimist and accepted a job delivering pamphlets.
14. While doing that, he met the owner of an orchard who asked him to plant new fruit trees.
15. Although the man looked quite ordinary, he had a peculiar habit.
16. The rows of trees had to be absolutely parallel.
17. Since Peter had plenty of patience, he didn't object although the job proved more difficult than expected because the soil was hard and rocky.
18. Lo and Behold! While digging the hole for the last tree, he came upon a coffin that not only contained a skeleton but also lots of gold coins!

94. FATE

1. Patrick Plumber had established himself as a busy chiropractor in the middle of town.
2. One cold winter, he had caught pneumonia.
3. His physical condition had deteriorated; doctors had told him that the damage done was bound to be permanent.
4. Since Patrick possessed great perseverance, he had preferred to continue his work.
5. However, his wife Patricia suggested that, out of sheer precaution, he should postpone practising again.
6. He sold his practice and settled in a picturesque area near the precipice of a high cliff from where he could perceive the world from a different perspective.
7. He persuaded Patricia to learn how to pierce ears because pierced ears from which gaudy earrings could dangle had become the fashion.
8. Since she was both an artist and a photographer, she also started to paint portraits and to take photographs of early pioneers who had settled in the district.
9. Patrick himself started to write poetry.
10. One day, fate struck again.
11. He almost died from the poison of a poisonous rattlesnake.
12. Weakened even further he started to breed pigeons and platypuses (literally: flat footers), typical Australian, amphibious, egg-laying mammals.

95. ICE CUBES

1. During the reign of King George XX, Remembrance Day was held on his birthday.
2. All those who attended this important ceremony were reminded to remember the famous quotation, "Lest We Forget!"
3. During the rehearsal of one of these ceremonial activities, it was recommended that speakers should recognise the dangerous circumstances under which a certain battalion had lived during the Vietnam War.
4. The mayor of Liverpool had referred to the courage exhibited by one of their oldest recruits who had taken command in the absence of their real commander.
5. Fred Velvet had been a registered referee for religious football clubs.
6. He had received a medallion for catching a lion who had escaped from the zoo.
7. The battalion had been trapped in a sandstone quarry.
8. There had been no time for relaxation.
9. The ratio of killing and being killed was about 1:3 so their success rate had not been good.
10. They had only one receptacle-an old helmet-to cook in.
11. Food consisted of slugs, worms and tadpoles swimming around in a shallow pool of water.
12. When the relief team arrived, they realised why the battalion's army truck didn't function properly.
13. When the radiator had collapsed, one so-called inventor had tried to use a refrigerator instead; however, it only produced ice cubes.

96.SPINACH

1. A well-known solicitor in the northern hemisphere was a healthy looking human specimen.
2. A friendly soul, social and skillful, sufficiently suitable to defend a client in Court.
3. He had selected a mountainous suburb from where he could seize the opportunity to view the summit of the largest mountain.
4. Although it was a spectacle to behold, it was also a source of many accidents that occurred along the straight stretch of rock leading to the top.
5. It was covered with a thin layer of a mysterious substance that acted like a sponge so that it was very slippery.
6. Hundreds of skeletons in the gorge beneath were apparently not enough to stop people from climbing to the top.
7. One day as the solicitor was sitting in his office looking at the mountain, a client came in to ask some advice.
8. A drycleaner had smudged the man's wedding suit so the man wanted to sue him for damage.
9. When the solicitor stated his fee which was triple the cost of the suit, the client started to squabble.
10. The solicitor got so annoyed that he squeezed the man's neck so tight that the man started to squeal!
11. The result was disastrous. A stomach full spinach landed on the solicitor's desk!
12. Since the solicitor was going to sue the man for creating a mess, and the man was going to sue the solicitor for assault, which is of course a far more serious offence, the solicitor decided to buy the man a new wedding suit.

97.SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

1. Salvador Salvage lived in the safety of a rural sanctuary, a 1000-hectare reserve that surrounded a huge reservoir.
2. The reservoir was an artificial lake in which water was collected for the neighbouring city.
3. Salvador was responsible for correlating the data received from an artificial satellite that orbited the planet Pluto.
4. The rhythm of a the daily routine met with no resistance.
5. The previous scientist, a rather romantic individual of a reputed reputation, had not resigned; he was simply sacked.
6. The monotonous repetition of tasks concerned with scientific research had proved too much for him and had taken its toll.
7. He had seen no rhyme nor reason in doing what he did and had often fallen asleep in the lap of his secretary.
8. Consequently, his work had not been satisfactory despite his ridiculously high salary.
9. Rumour has it that a reprimand from his boss had only been received with sarcasm.
10. The man obviously knew that he could afford to do that.
11. The company could only get rid of him by paying him \$100 000; the absurdity of a crazy society!

98. SAUSAGES AND BARBECUE SAUCE

1. Simon Sculptor had been a sincere and sensible sergeant in the Police Force.
2. During a siege organised to capture a serial killer hiding in an old warehouse, Simon had seriously injured his shoulder.
3. Although it looked as if only a pair of scissors had scratched it, the pain had been so severe that he had shrieked like an angry scarecrow.
4. After the serial killer had been caught and sentenced to 20 years in prison, life in the village had returned to normal.
5. Simon had been a good scholar with high marks for Science so he became the secretary for the Commissioner himself because good secretaries are scarce.
6. He was also in charge of a scheme that involved planning exercises on separate occasions to repeat operations similar to the recent one.
7. Simon had noticed that, during the last siege, quite a number of policemen were starving so he asked his wife to volunteer supplying and serving sausages with barbecue sauce.

99. THE GOOD OLD DAYS

1. The original Village School stood in a quiet location.
2. Outside, walking alongside his dog-drawn cart, reins in hand, the kerosene man announced his presence: “Fill up your lamps, old and new!” he bellowed.
3. Inside, apart from the general purpose books and medicine bottles on shelves, some scattered ornaments hung from hand-forged nails in the plastered wall of the church-like but cosy classroom.
4. Dirk Drum was in trouble as usual.
5. His frequent and peculiar appetite and subsequent laziness made him a definite nuisance in school.
6. One day, he had started an argument after the teacher had indicated that he had misspelt “February”; he had left out the first r because he didn’t pronounce it.
7. When the teacher had reminded the class of a way how to remember to spell the word-a mnemonic-Dirk had been busy sucking sweets.
8. February has (usually) 28 days. READ: 2nd month, 8 letters!
9. John Stone, a humorous man, was about to give a far from vicious, in fact quite delicate tap on Dirk’s puffy hand so that he would not collapse in front of the Minister for Education who happened to be on an official business inspection tour.
10. Besides, Mr Stone didn’t want his career to collapse either!
11. Dairy Blossom, the happiest girl in class, with her deliciously coloured circular cheeks, stood by in eager expectation of the impact while she was waiting for Mr Stone’s initials of approval.
12. In contrast, the other innocent looking creature among the witness audience, her younger sister, with a vague glint in her eye, was more interested in the reaction of Dirk Drum.

COGITO ERGO SUM

Life is survival from the moment of arrival to the hole in the ground, for life is earthbound.
Bones that burn to ashes for the urn.

Life is a golden handshake between gods and demons: without odds no evens, without black no white, without day no night, without unjust no just. Dust to dust.

Life is as incomprehensible as a beehive. Life is a trick to stay alive.

Life is dark in the underworld where the worm works, light in the upperworld where temptation lurks, the fight of the fittest, the biggest against the smallest.

The Ten Commandments made by man, an ape imitating Tarzan.

Life is lifeless god selling answers for gold; unanswerable questions by young and old. They shalt not. How come he has what I haven't got?

Ponder not, wonder not, compare not, judge not. Life is a mystery, future present and history.

Do well and rejoice, listen to the inner voice.

Life is the call of the mocking bird, the rational and the surd, the song of the nightingale, the trumpet of the elephant, the fountain of the whale, the tic-toc of the clock, running water shaping rock, the rat in the roof, the kookaburra's laugh aloof,
Cannibals cooking people in pots, cannonballs firing shots, an enemy that rots away.

Whenever you pray, someone will prey.

The wind in the willow by the window of the widow; so above, so below.

Life is an arm raising the alarm, a mesmerising moon while the sky is calm,

A staring star, a fancy car, a candle in the dark, a stark naked shark,

A frillneck standing still, a leopard's jump to kill, an eager stallion, a mating bull,
Kids singing "Baa, Baa, black sheep, three bags full," a waving hand of a friend off to a distant land, a teardrop, a booking cop.

Life is the pain of a hammer hitting thumb, the strain of someone deaf and dumb,

A head on a shoulder, falling in love on a boulder. Life is a concert from Mozart to Mártenitsa
and Mara, the pounding pulse of the bass in Sezoni with Sandra, Lou and Tony.

Life is the taste of ice cream in a dream, fresh fish from the stream, roast on toast.

Life is the smell of the sea, the leaves of a tree, sour milk and sweat, a mushroom farm, a dying pet.

Life is hope, dope, the noose of a rope, doing sums while waiting for a train that never comes, a rocky road with ups and downs,
a circus with clowns, a journey in the deserted desert seeing an oasis that isn't there, a dog chasing an illusion that's not a rabbit nor a hare.

Life is the green grass on the other side, the bridegroom and his bride,

Excessively dressed people, bells from the steeple, a courtroom filled with sorrow, not today, but perhaps tomorrow.

Life is the draw of the straw, the claw of the law. Life is meeting similar souls in a universe moving to black holes,

Comets scorching all that was beautiful.